

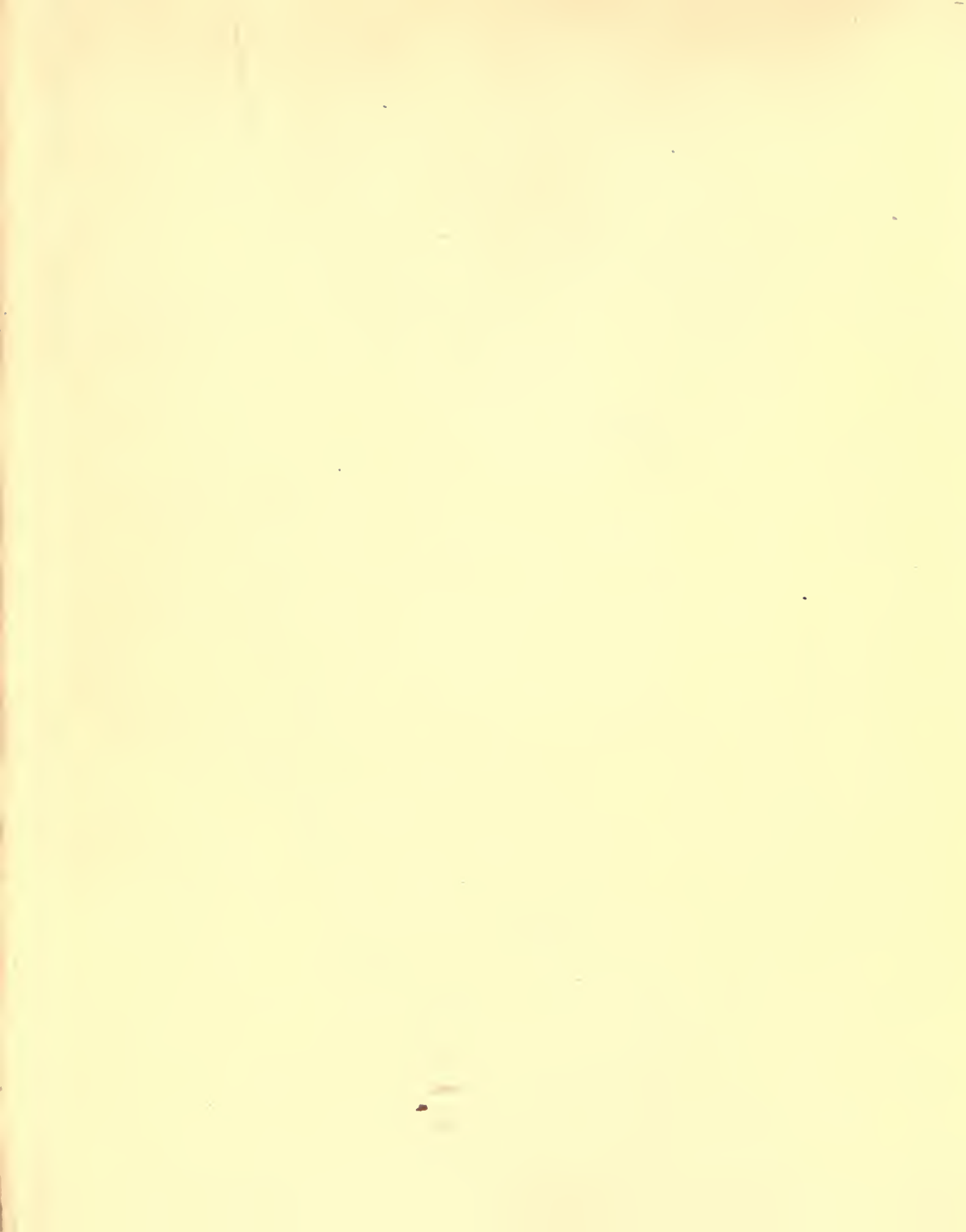




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A HISTORY
OF THE
NOTTINGHAM SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY.





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THE FRONT READING ROOM.

Arthur Lincker.

A History of the Nottingham Subscription Library

MORE GENERALLY KNOWN AS
Bromley House Library.

BY
JOHN RUSSELL, THE PRESIDENT,
(M.A., BALLIOL COLLEGE, OXFORD.)

ILLUSTRATED.

NOTTINGHAM:
DERRY & SONS, LTD.

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" Books are not absolutely dead things, but do contain a progeny of life in them to be as active as that soul was whose progeny they are.

" A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit, imbalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life."—*Milton*.

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LIBRARY



DEDICATION.

‘SERIT ARBORES QUAE ALTERI SEculo PROsIENT’:
HOC EX STATIO QUODAM DICTUM CicerO PROFERT ; QUO
EXEMPLO USI MAJORES NOSTRI HANC BIBLIOTHECAM CUM
LIBROS TUM ETIAM DOMICILIUM EJUS COMPARAVERUNT ;
NOS IGITUR HEREDES BENEFICIORUM GRATIAM REFERENTES
HUNC LIBELLUM PARVULUM PROAVIS MUNUSCULUM
DEDICAMUS ANNO SANCTO MDCCCXVI. POST CONDITAM
BIBLIOTHECAM CENTENSIMO.

Cicero quotes a certain Statius as saying “ He is planting trees to benefit a future generation,” using which as an example our ancestors procured for their descendants this Library, both books and building. In gratitude for these benefits which we have inherited, we dedicate this small book as a slight offering to our forefathers in the year of grace 1916, the one hundredth after the foundation of the library.



PREFACE.

The Author gratefully acknowledges help given to him in the compilation of this book by his two daughters and by the Librarian and his assistants. Had it not been for their help in searching and transcription, the work would have been impossible. Especially are thanks due to Mr. Lineker for the illustrations, the photographs for which were many of them taken by his own hands. Apology is offered for errors and omissions due to weakness and physical infirmities.

1916.



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A HISTORY OF BROMLEY HOUSE LIBRARY.

INTRODUCTION.

Gibbon says " History is little more than a register of the crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind." This may be true of the histories of nations, dynasties, and ambitious men of the Napoleonic sort. But this little book aims rather at telling of the

" Sweet presence of a good diffused
And in diffusion ever more intense,"

and may be compared with a book described by Dr. Johnson, who writes from Sadler Street, Lichfield, July 11th, 1770, as follows :—

" Mr. Green the apothecary has found a book which tells who paid levies in our parish, and how much they paid, above an hundred years ago. Do you not think we study this book hard? Nothing is like going to the bottom of things. Many families that paid the parish rates are now extinct, like the race of Hercules.

Pulvis et umbra sumus. What is nearest us touches us most. The passions rise higher at domestic than imperial tragedies. I am not wholly unaffected by the revolutions in Sadler Street, nor can I forbear to mourn when old names vanish away, and new ones come into their places."

As the visitor passes into the old garden with its sundial and once trimly kept lawn and ancient trees, he feels that, in spite of the incongruous surroundings of modern workshops and factories, the place is still reminiscent of a statelier, quieter, more picturesque age, and is suggestive of hooped petticoats, tie-wigs, and powdered hair. The long list of those who have belonged to this Institution, as subscribers, and members of the Committee, and have filled positions of dignity and responsibility in the City, suggests to the mind that this old Library and its home have been for a long series of years, the soul that has guided and moulded much of the busy life outside, and that Nottingham owes not a little to the inspiration, that has gone forth from the "brown dwellers on the dusty shelves." They have provided amusement for their leisure, solace for their pain, and information for the minds of many of the best of its citizens.

CHAPTER I.

OF THE BUILDING AND THINGS IN GENERAL.

The Nottingham Subscription Library was founded in 1816, and took possession of its present home at Bromley House in 1822. Its meetings in the intervening time were held at Wright's Bank, Carlton Street. It may be of interest to transcribe here what was said in Sutton's Stranger's Guide, issued in 1827. " Quitting the Exchange, and going in a direction towards the west, in Angel Row, which is on the south side of the Market Place, is an elegant brick building, with iron palisades before it, known by the name of Bromley House, which is said to be one of the best built houses in the town. It was erected by Sir George Smith, Bart., whose son afterwards took the name of Bromley, and was one of the ancestors of Sir Robert Howe Bromley, of Stoke, in this County, and hence the building obtained its name. It was for many years, the Nottingham residence of that distinguished family, and at one time was used as a banking house; then it was occupied by Thomas Smith, Esquire, but afterwards falling to decay, it was purchased

for the Subscription Library of the town. On entering the building, you find yourself in the hall, which is much admired for its floor and its ceiling, and over the chimney-piece are the arms of the Smith family, and the head of a female, supposed to have been intended for Queen Anne. On the left is a public news-room, and on the right is a broad flight of stairs leading to the library room. On these stairs is a full length portrait, as large as life, of the venerable Dr. Storer, the senior physician in the town ; it is an admirable likeness, and was painted by Mr. Barber, whose talents as a portrait painter, do the highest honour to Nottingham, his native place. The library room is in the shape of an angle **L**. Here is the largest collection of books in the town, consisting of many thousand volumes, in all the various departments of science and literature. Here is also a cabinet of mineralogy, to which additions are constantly making, and the room is adorned with sculptures, paintings, maps, portraits, etc. Amongst the paintings we may particularise a view of Clifton Grove, which has been immortalised by the pen of Henry Kirke White. This painting, which is from the pencil and does great credit to the talents of a native artist, Mr. J. R. Walker, is over the fire-place, at the west end of the room. Here are also portraits of

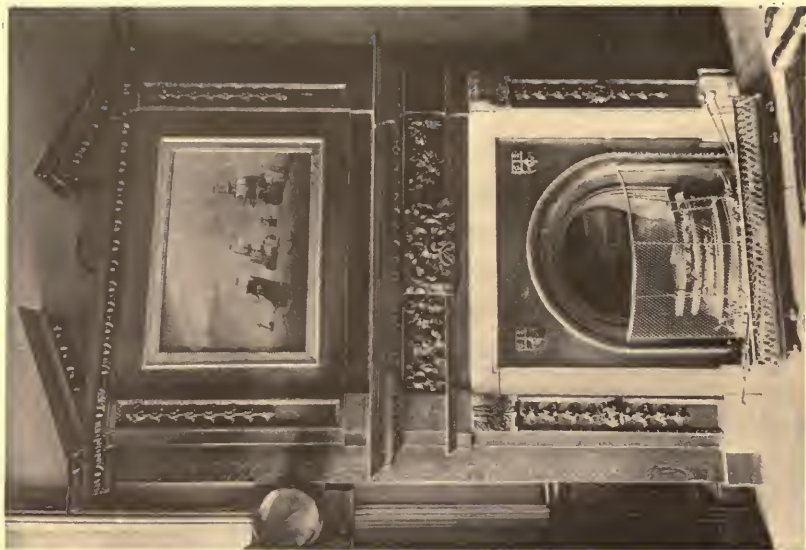
Henry Kirke White, Lord Byron, Colonel Hutchinson, The Rev. George Walker, Colonel Elliott, Sir R. Arkwright, D. P. Coke, Esq., John Smith, Esq., T. Hawkesley, Esq., George Coldham, Esq., Thomas Denman, Esq., Joseph Birch, Esq., and many others, whose names are connected with the local history of this town and neighbourhood. There are one hundred and one proprietors of this library, a share in which sells for about £15, and there is an annual payment of £2. The librarian is Mr. James Archer. Strangers can have the privilege of the library for one month, if properly recommended and introduced by a member. One side of the library room is devoted to the reception of the Standfast library, which was given in 1744, by the Rev. Wm. Standfast, D.D. as the foundation of a public library in this town. In this building there is an excellent billiard table, and the exhibitions of the Nottingham Florist and Horticultural Society, are held in one of the apartments."

Many changes and alterations have been made in the library since that date. The number of subscribers now is 265 and the Annual Subscription is Two Guineas. The billiard table, the Nottingham Florist and Horticultural Society have disappeared, as also have the portraits of Colonel Hutchinson, Rev. George Walker,

Sir Richard Arkwright, D. P. Coke, Esq., John Smith, Esq., Thomas Denman, Esq., and Joseph Birch, Esq. Facilities have recently been given for the game of chess. A spiral staircase has been constructed in the large library to give access to an upper range of shelves. A small annexe has been built between what used to be the Standfast library and the large reading room, and quite recently a gallery and shelves have been constructed in the large reading room to make provision for the books which were fast outgrowing the space provided in the library. The Standfast books, as being in less general demand, have been taken into one of the upper chambers of the building. A few years ago a new departure was made by the election of two ladies to the Committee. This change, wholesome and useful in itself, was an act of justice to the many ladies who hold shares in their own names in the library. The two first ladies elected were Miss H. Guilford and Miss M. A. Sanday. The management of the library was for a long time in the hands of a President, Hon. Secretary, Librarian, and twelve members of Committee, six of whom retired each year, and were ineligible for a year for re-election. But a few years ago, a change was made by which four members were elected each year, and each member



HERALDIC CHIMNEY PIECE IN THE HALL.



CHIMNEY PIECE AND WIND DIAL.

Arthur Lincker.

was allowed to remain in office for three years ; at the same time the disqualification for immediate re-election was abolished.

The Library Committee meets every month for the transaction of ordinary business, and a special Committee meets once a month to choose new books, and to arrange for the replacement of old ones, worn out or lost. The Annual Meeting is held in the month of April.

We have seen that the library building was formerly the town house of the Smith-Bromley family, and from an inscription placed on the north-east wall of the garden inscribed G.S. 1752, it would appear to have been built in the time of George II., in the year in which the new style was adopted for the Calendar. It is a suitable building for the home of an ancient library, with its stately Ionic columns in the hall, its proud escutcheon on the mantel-piece, now hidden from view by a partition that separates the hall from an office*, its winding staircase and beautiful wainscoting, its well-lighted interior dome, its fine mantelpieces in the large library, its ornamental plaster ceiling in the same room, and many other details such as the cornice-dentils, and the carved beading on

*For a description of the armorial bearings, see G. F. Gascoyne's note in Thoroton Society's Transactions, No. XVI., page 75.

the doors, and the flower work over the fire-places, all which details speak of refinement and good taste. In the room occupied by the Thoroton Society is a series of panels with floriated frames which were probably intended to receive family portraits. On the exterior the building consists of three stages, a ground-floor with four square-headed windows divided by a front door with a semi-circular heading and fan-light ; a middle stage with five pedimented windows ; a top stage with five square-headed windows ; beyond them all, a fairly deep parapet, behind which is a roof of reddish tiles on which are set three dormer windows. The general effect is simple and dignified without superfluous ornament. The front door leading to the street level has a short flight of steps between two railed-off areas, and the basement has very strong arched brickwork. The areas are now occupied as basket stores, but at one time one of the areas was occupied as a wine vault, kept among others by Mr. Smith, Mr. Hawkes, and Mr. C. H. Perry. In the Minute of the date Jan. 3rd, 1830, it is stated that " Mr. Smith made an application to rent the Rock Cellars under Brömley House for wholesale wine and spirit vaults, and it was resolved, that on his entering into an agreement with Mr. Watts respecting the possession of

such parts of the cellars as he wishes for, he shall be entered tenant thereof at such rent as the Committee shall decide upon, all expense of alterations to be borne by Mr. Smith." The workmanship of the building is excellent. It became necessary a year or two ago, in constructing an office for Mr. Sutton, to pierce one of the walls for the insertion of a door and the courses of mortar were found to be as white as pure lime and as evenly laid as if each course has been adjusted with a ruler. Blackner says (1815) "Bromley House, so called from the late Sir George Bromley, whose father erected it, stands on Angel Row, and is considered the best built house in the town." The sundial in the garden has no legend, such as is common to old sundials, but contains merely a gnomon together with figures and lines of observation, and the name of the maker "Dollond." Suggestions have several times been made, and even plans submitted, for the conversion of the ground floor into shops. But the Committee have hitherto refrained from taking any further steps in the matter for fear of wounding the feelings of the older members of the library, and from a desire not to mutilate a fine old building and destroy one of the last relics of a time when the gentry of the county resorted to their county town for their

winter festivities instead of going to London.

If tradition may be trusted the library building has not been without its scenes of political excitement. "Free and Independent" electors have been harangued from the windows of the large front reading room; the stout oaken front door is said to bear upon it traces of hard knocks given to it by infuriated mobs trying to force an entrance; and one stalwart candidate for Parliamentary honours, is reported to have taken off his coat on the library steps, and offered to fight anyone of the rabble who chose to take him on.

Orange, in his "History of Nottingham" says:—"the news of the lamentable defeat of Lord John Russell's 'Reform Bill' reached Nottingham at 7 o'clock on the evening of October 8th, 1831. The unwelcome intelligence was no sooner read in the news-room at Bromley House than a respectably signed requisition was sent to the Mayor calling on him to convene without delay, a public meeting to address the King, praying that he would continue his ministers, and that such measures might be adopted" as would ensure the carrying of Earl Grey's measure of Reform."

It may be as well to mention, before leaving the subject of the building, that at the back of the garden,



THE GARDEN



HALL AND STAIRCASE.

Arthur Lincker.



the library has a right of way into St. James' Street, which in the event of any buildings being erected on the garden, might be useful as a means of access to them, without the necessity of coming through the front hall of the library.

CHAPTER II.

THE ORIGINS OF THE LIBRARY.

Nottingham was not the only or even the pioneer place in England in which Subscription Libraries were established about a hundred years ago. It will be seen from the following list that not only were similar institutions founded in many of the larger English towns, but that in many cases they preceded in point of time by several years the foundation of Bromley House Library.

PRINCIPAL SUBSCRIPTION AND PROPRIETARY LIBRARIES
FOUNDED 18TH AND EARLY 19TH CENTURY.

| | | | |
|---|-------|---------|------|
| Bedford Literary & Scientific Institute | - | Founded | 1830 |
| Birmingham Library | - - - | „ | 1779 |
| Bradford Library & Literary Society | - | „ | 1774 |
| Hull Subscription Library | - - - | „ | 1775 |
| Hull Lyceum | - - - | „ | 1807 |
| Hereford Permanent Library | - - | „ | 1805 |
| Leeds Library | - - - | „ | 1768 |
| Leicester Permanent Library | - - | „ | 1790 |
| Liverpool Athenæum | - - - | „ | 1798 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|------|
| Liverpool Lyceum | - | - | - | - | „ | 1758 |
| Newcastle Literary & Philosophical Society | | | | | „ | 1793 |
| Plymouth Proprietary Library | - | - | - | - | „ | 1812 |
| Sunderland Subscription Library | - | - | - | - | „ | 1795 |
| York Subscription Library | - | - | - | - | „ | 1794 |

The establishment of so many libraries in such quick succession in various large towns, may be taken as an indication that the number of readers was increasing and the resources of private libraries were becoming inadequate for the supply of a due quantity of new and varied books, hence an endeavour was made to meet the want by combination and the formation of libraries. The remark made by the Committee in the first Annual Report of the Bromley House Library point to this as a fact.

In Nottingham itself, the wants of readers were supplied by such libraries as Dunn's, and also by the formation of Reading Societies, one of which, meeting at the White Lion Inn, claims attention here as being perhaps in a way the parent of Bromley House Library.

Its members and rules are said to have been as follows :—

BOOK SOCIETY. WHITE LION, 1788.

NORTH CLASS.

Rt. Hon. Lord Middleton.

Sir J. B. Warren.

Thomas Charlton, Esq.

George Robinson, Esq.

Hon. Henry Sedley.

Rev. Robert Stanser.

John Newton, Esq.

Rev. J. Eyton, Steward.

BOOK SOCIETY. WHITE LION, 1789.

TOWN CLASS.

John Sherwin, Esq.

Mr. Samuel Turner.

Rev. Dr. Haines.

Rev. A. C. Launder.

Francis Gawthern, Esq.

Thomas Frost, Esq.

Rev. Jeremiah Bigsby.

Mr. Thomas Rawson.

Samuel Smith, Esq.

Dr. Storer.

Rev. John Blanchard.
 Mr. Charles Pennington.
 Mr. John Alleyne.
 Mr. Robert Thompson.
 Mr. Samuel Fox.
 Mr. Francis Roe.
 Coape Sherbrooke, Esq.
 Rev. James Eyton, Steward.

RULES OF THE BOOK SOCIETY. WHITE LION.

Each member is required to transmit the Books to the person whose name immediately follows his own ; and to mark the day of the month respectively on the margins above, opposite to his name.

Every member residing in the town is allowed to keep Pamphlets one week, Octavos two weeks, and Quartos three weeks for each volume.

Every member not residing in the town is allowed to keep each book respectively one week over-and-above the times mentioned above.

N.B.—In consequence of the numerous complaints of the want of a due circulation, the Society at their last Meeting, came to the unanimous Resolution of levying

a fine of two-pence a day, for every book kept beyond the limited time.

The proceedings in connexion with the actual formation of Bromley House and the list of its earlier members are given below:—

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS,
previous to the establishment of the Nottingham Public
Library.

In the month of December, One thousand Eight hundred and Fifteen, the following letter was addressed to the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Nottingham.

My Lord Duke,

It is in the contemplation of several gentlemen of this town and neighbourhood to establish a Public Library and Newsroom on the plan of similar institutions at Liverpool, Manchester, and other large towns; and I am in consequence directed to transmit to your Grace the enclosed outline of the plan proposed, and respectfully to solicit the honour of your patronage and support to an institution so much wanted in

Nottingham. I venture to hope therefore that your Grace will give your encouragement to the above undertaking, and beg the favour of a reply at your convenience.

I have the honour to be &c., &c.,

(signed) JNO. PEARSON.

Nottingham, 16th, December, 1815.

TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

PROSPECTUS.

It is intended to establish a Library in Nottingham upon a plan similar to those in the towns of Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Hull, &c., &c.

A deposit of five pounds and five shillings is to constitute a Proprietor of the Library; who is also to pay a subscription of £2 2s. 0d. annually in advance.

Proprietors of the Library are to have the option whether they will subscribe to the News Room, to which none but proprietors of the Library will be admitted.

Proprietors will be allowed the perusal of books at their own houses for a limited time.

When a sufficient number of persons have subscribed

their names, a general meeting of proprietors will be held for the purpose of forming regulations, &c.

Proprietors' shares will be transferable.

Similar letters were addressed to the members of Parliament for the Town and County of Nottingham.

The circular letter next copied was at the same time sent to most of the respectable inhabitants of the Town enclosing a copy of the above prospectus.

Sir,

A building well adapted for the purposes of a Library, Newsroom, and Reading Room, being now vacant, the annexed prospectus is respectfully transmitted for your perusal, should you feel desirous of becoming a proprietor, the favour of your name is requested by, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

(Signed) JN. PEARSON,

Wheelergate, Dec., 13th, 1815.

In reply to these applications the following letters were received from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle and John Smith, Esq., one of the members for the Town :

Clumber, Jany. 7th, 1816.

Sir,

I received your letter enclosing an outline of a plan for establishing a Public Library and Newsroom at Nottingham. In the hopes that such an establishment may be a benefit and convenience to the Town and neighbourhood of Nottingham, and concluding that it will be in no way political, I beg the favour of you to put my name down as a subscriber.

I remain Sir, your Obedient

(signed) "NEWCASTLE."

To MR. J. PEARSON, Secty.

Blenden Hall, Bexley,

Kent,

25th Dec., 1815.

Sir,

I am favoured with your letter communicating the intention of several Gentlemen of Nottingham and its neighbourhood to establish a Library and Newsroom on the plan of the Institution at Liverpool ; I believe it is in the recollection of several of my friends in Nottingham that I have frequently lamented the want of an establishment of this nature from which other towns, particularly Liverpool and Belfast, the best

consequences have arisen. The object has my most cordial approbation, and I beg permission that my name may be admitted among those of the Subscribers.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(signed) JOHN SMITH.

To MR. J PEARSON

As soon as 150 subscribers had signified their intention of supporting the intended institution, the following circular letter and list of names was sent to each of the members :—

Sir,

I take the liberty of forwarding to you a list of the present subscribers to the intended Public Library in Nottingham; and of informing you, that, as a sufficient number of names has now been obtained to enable the projected Institution to be carried into effect, a meeting for the purpose of forming the necessary arrangements will be held in a short time, of which due notice will be given.

I am Sir, Your most obedient Servant,

(signed) J. PEARSON,

Secretary.

Nottingham, 5th February, 1816.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Acomb, W. | Brough, J. |
| Acton, W. | Browne, C. |
| Alcock, C. | Butcher, W. |
| Alliott, Revd. R. | Burnside, W. |
| Almond, Revd. R. W. | Cleobury, Miss |
| Atkin, I. | Cheetham, W. |
| Beardsley, Miss | Cheetham, T. |
| Brewitt, Mrs. | Churchill, J. |
| Bakewell, J. | Coldham, W. |
| Barber, J. H. | Crowther, T. |
| Balguy, J. | Cursham, W. |
| Beardsley, E. | Deakin, Mrs. |
| Barnett, H. | Deakin, J. |
| Barnsdale, N. | Dale, J. |
| Bates, J. | Doubleday, W. |
| Beardmore, J. | Dunn, J. |
| Beastall, S. | Enfield, H. |
| Bell, J. | Fearnhead, P. |
| Blatherwick, J. | Fletcher, C. |
| Bradley, T. L. | Gawthorne, T. |
| Braithwaite, F. | |
| Braithwaite, T. | |

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Gill, T. | Huthwaite, C. |
| Gill, G. | Keep, J. |
| Gill, J. | Kewney, J. |
| Gill, R. | |
| Goodall, R. S. | Langford, Miss |
| Hall, S. | Lomax, J. |
| Hall, T. | Lowe, W. |
| Hall, Dr. | Lowe, T., Junr. |
| Hancock, J. | Maltby, W. B. |
| Hawksworth, Revd. R. | Middlemore, Mrs. |
| Hedderley, J. | Mason, S. B. |
| Hind, T. | Mellor, C. |
| Hind, J. | Melville, W. |
| Higginbotham, J. | Milnes, T. B. |
| Holcombe, Rev. G. | Milnes, M. |
| Hopper, R. | Morley, C. S. |
| Hooley, J. | Morley, R. |
| Hooley, S. C. | |
| Hopkinson, G., Junr. | Neale, R. |
| Homer, C. | Need, N. Junr. |
| Huish, J. | Needham, Miss |
| Hurst, W. | Needham, M. |
| Hutchinson, Revd. C. | Newham, B. |
| Hutton, Revd. J. | Nixon, J. |

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Oldknow, O. T. | Spencer, C. |
| Parsons, S. | Staveley, E. |
| Payne, S. | Stenson, J. |
| Pearson, J. | Sterland, O. |
| Pearson, Joseph | Stevenson, T. |
| Pennington, Dr. | Storer, Dr. |
| Percy, H. | Stretton, G. |
| | Stretton, W. |
| Rawson, W. P. | Swann, C., Junr. |
| Roberts, T. | |
| Rothwell, J. | Tatham, T. P. |
| | Thorne, W. |
| Scales, J. R. | Toplis, Revd. J. |
| Scorer, H. | Trentham, W. |
| Selby, W. | Trentham, W., Junr. |
| Severn, J. | Turner, T. |
| Shilton, C. D. | Twells, S. W. |
| Simes, W. | |
| Simpson, T. | Vowe, T. |
| Slater, T. | Wakefield, F. |
| Smith, J., Esq., M.P. | Wakefield, T. |
| Smith, H. | Watson, J. |
| Smith, J. | Watson, W. |
| Smith, T. C. | Webster, J. S. |
| Soars, M. | Whitehead, J. |

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Wildsmith, J. | Wright, I. |
| Wilson, J. | Wright, J. Junr. |
| Woolley, J. | Wright, T. |
| Wortley, R. L. | Youle, H. |
| Wright, J. | |

Thus then was the Library started and on the first page of the first Minute Book it is recorded :—

At a general meeting of the Members of the Nottingham Subscription Library held at Thurland Hall, on Tuesday, the 2nd of April, 1816.

Mr. F. Wakefield in the Chair.

The following gentlemen were elected by list to fill the offices of President, Treasurer, and Committee :

Dr. Storer, President.

John Wright, Esquire, Treasurer.

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| The Revd. R. W. Almond. | Mr. Thos. Crowther. |
| The Revd. Richd. Alliot. | Mr. John Pearson. |
| The Revd. G. Hutchinson. | Mr. F. Wakefield. |
| The Revd. R. Hawkesworth. | Mr. Wm. Burnside. |
| The Revd. T. Hulton. | Dr. Hall. |
| Mr. Wm. Stretton. | Mr. Thos. Wakefield. |

We read in a Minute of the date April 19th, 1816, that a copy of the Constituent Rules be obtained as soon as possible and sent to Dr. Storer for the perusal of the Duke of Newcastle, as requested in his Grace's letter to Dr. Storer.

It may be observed here that the Newcastle family has maintained its interest in the Library and that the present Duke is one of the members.

On May 3rd, 1816 " your Committee report that they have agreed with Messrs. Wright for the premises in Carlton Street at an annual rent of £70 to commence from old Lady Day."

The following is an extract from the Minutes of the first Annual Meeting, held 1st April, 1817 :—

" In reporting the transactions of the first year of this Institution the Committee deem it necessary to advert to the design of a Public Library and to the advantages which may be derived from it. In a Public Library for a trivial expense to the proprietors individually the best and most valuable books may be collected, as well as those periodical publications, which every person of reading would wish to see and few would choose to buy ; and to the whole of which every proprietor may have the most convenient access ; advantages which

he could not otherwise enjoy without incurring an expense almost equal to the value of the whole Library.

“With these views the leading object of the Committee has been to form a collection of standard books ; adapted as far as possible, to the various tastes of the Proprietors ; and for the attainment of this desirable object, Public Notice was given that a book would remain at the Library, in which the Proprietors might enter the title of such books as they wished to be included in the collection ; and from books so recommended, the Committee afterwards made a selection proportionate to the sum to be expended in the several classes.”

A difficulty has arisen of late years in attempting to cater for the wants of two classes of readers—those who want serious and permanent literature and those who merely amuse themselves with fiction and ephemeral productions. The income of the Library is not sufficient to provide adequately for the wants of both classes, but a fairly satisfactory compromise has been attained by means of enlarged subscriptions to the big London Circulating Libraries, and readers can now consult a sufficient number of solid works in the reference department of our Free Libraries.

In 1822, the present building was bought, and we read :—



BROMLEY HOUSE.

W. E. Middleton.



“ It was resolved at the ANNUAL MEETING held on April 1st, 1822.

“ That the message and premises shall be demised to Henry Willoughby of Aspley in the County of Nottingham Esq., Lancelot Rolleston of Watnal in the County of Nottingham, John Storer of Nottingham Dr. of Physic, Charles Pennington of Nottingham Dr. of Physic, Marshall Hall of Nottingham Dr. of Physic, The Rev. John Henry Browne of Cotgrave in the County of Nottingham Clerk, Henry Percy of Nottingham Solicitor, Henry Enfield of Nottingham Solicitor, William Cursham of Nottingham Solicitor, John Pearson of Nottingham Solicitor, Henry Oldknow of Nottingham Surgeon, Thomas Carpenter Smith of Nottingham Hosier, Mathew Needham of Lenton in the County of Nottingham Hosier, James Hooley of Woodhouse in the Parish of Arnold in the County of Nottingham Hosier, Francis Braithwaite of Nottingham Hosier, John Bakewell of Nottingham Woolstapler, William Melville of Nottingham Cotton Spinner, John Houseman Barber of Nottingham Alderman, Thomas Crowther of Nottingham Cotton Merchant, and Martin Roe of Nottingham Draper, their executors administrators assigns for the time of 5000 years for the general benefit of the present Subscribers

to and Members of the sd Library and Institution their executors administrators and assigns according to their respective shares and interests for the time being in the sd Library and Institution and to be also deemed and taken to be personal property and to be subject to the Rules and Laws of the sd Institution."

These then were the first Trustees. The Trust Deed provides that the number of Trustees shall be twenty-one, and that when the number shall be diminished by death or resignation to the number of seven, a fresh appointment shall be made. The following have been Trustees up to the present time :—

TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY, 1858.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| John Bradley. | William Hill. |
| Francis Braithwaite. | Samuel Newham. |
| John Brewster. | Henry Oldknow. |
| Michael Browne. | Edmund Percy. |
| Rev. John Henry Browne. | George Rawson. |
| Hugh Bruce Campbell. | Lancelot Rolleston. |
| William Cripps. | John Wadsworth. |
| William Cursham. | Arthur Wells. |
| William Enfield. | Henry Willoughby. |
| Marshall Hall. | Thomas Woodhouse. |

TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY, 1874.

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Michael Browne. | W. A. Patterson. |
| J. H. Brown. | Edmund Percy. |
| William Cursham. | S. H. Sands. |
| R. Enfield. | H. A. Smith. |
| R. Evans. | J. C. Smith. |
| J. B. Gibson. | T. R. Starey. |
| A. Heymann. | J. Watson. |
| William Hill. | Arthur Wells. |
| J. W. Leavers. | Thomas Woodhouse. |
| E. J. Lowe. | Col. Ichabod Wright. |
| Samuel Newham. | |

TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY, 1912.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| C. T. Ashwell. | A. Heymann. |
| W. F. Bromley. | Groves C. Hine. |
| J. H. Brown. | Joseph Page. |
| H. Crewdson. | J. Russell, M.A. |
| A. Eberlin. | S. H. Sands. |
| R. Evans. | C. E. Townroe. |
| R. Evans. Junr. | J. C. Warren. |
| J. Forman. | J. W. Windley. |
| Sir. E. H. Fraser. | Parker Woodward. |
| G. P. Goodall. | J. Kentish Wright. |
| J. A. H. Green. | |

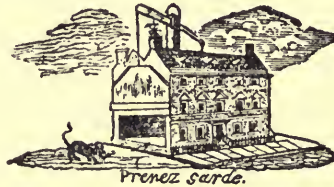
These lists make it clear that some of the best and worthiest of Nottingham Citizens have given of their time and trouble to manage the affairs of the Library and advance its interests. It is perhaps not without pertinence to record here that in a sermon preached in 1873 on the death of William Enfield by the Revd. R. A. Armstrong of the High Pavement Chapel, the preacher remarking on the catholicity, despite of differences of religious creed, of sympathy with human needs and human suffering, mentioned in support of his proposition the self-denying courage shewn during the Cholera Visitation in 1832 by Dr. Wilkins of St. Mary's, the Revd. R. W. Almond of St. Peter's, the Roman Catholic Bishop Wilson, the Unitarians the Revd. Benjamin Carpenter, and William Enfield, and Samuel Fox the Friend. It will be observed that several of these men were more or less closely identified with Bromley House Library.

The Trust Deed has its disadvantages in hampering and retarding new movements that might be to the interest of the Library, on the other hand it secures the permanence and continuity of an institution that has stood the test of time to prove its usefulness and value.

It might be expected that a scheme such as the establishment of a library like Bromley House would not

be launched without a certain amount of envy and sarcasm, perhaps even of ill-will. Accordingly, we find that a pamphlet was issued on the 14th Feb. 1829 bearing the title of the "Literary Mouse Trap," in which the writer pretends to have found in some old papers left by his grandfather, a composition entitled "Curious Debate upon mouse traps at the Literary Institution Grumbly House." The writer says that he was introducing the sketch as his "primitive article, well assured that it would explain why he had selected such a captivating title for his micellany." At the beginning of the pamphlet is a sketch of the library with a trap apparatus fixed on the roof and part of the gable end of the library removed to allow the mice to enter the trap, and at the bottom of the picture is the legend *Prenez Garde*. The characters in the debate are given as, Ebenezer Cynic, Simon Smoothtongue, Mr. Whizandstop, Mr. Shallow, Mr. Puppy-dog, Mr. Deer, Mr. Agewise, Dr. Develope, Mr. Stag, Mr. Aaronlogwood, The Revd. Mr. Pantryman, Mr. Jumper and several others. At this distance of time, identification of the disguised names is somewhat difficult. One may safely assume that by Mr. Tom Sleepclose, and Mr. Jumper, are meant, Mr. Thomas Wakefield, and Mr. Hopper, who about that time were members of

the Library Committee. Other identifications which have recently been found reveal the names of Mr. George Gill, Mr. Callow, Mr. Oldknow, Dr. Williams, Dr. Savage, Mr. Hind, Mr. Moses Wood, Mr. Butler, Mr. Grisenthwaite, Many of these identifications we owe to the courtesy of the Mechanic's Institution Librarian who kindly lent the Mechanic's Institution copy of the Literary Mouse-trap. Mr. C. Bonnell possesses a copy of this pamphlet and most kindly first called our attention to its existence, and lent it to us for perusal.



The Literary Mouse Trap.

In the debate, the origin of the mouse-trap is amusingly traced to an imaginary Welshman of antiquity, who fell asleep with his mouth open while it contained a fragment of Welsh rarebit, which a mouse tried to seize ; to the contraction of the valve of an oyster which caught a mouse ; and so on. It may be inferred from the number

of scientific puns scattered about the paper, that natural science was at that time being largely studied at the Library. Mr. Whizandstop must have been a somewhat verbose gentleman, as in his speech we find these words : “contristated, honorificabilitudinity, similitudinarian, incalescent, ossiferangent, etc.” A paper is mentioned called Blue Pill, evidently meant for a Mercury. The paper was printed by Mr. Kirk, Bookseller, St. Peter’s Gate, Nottingham.

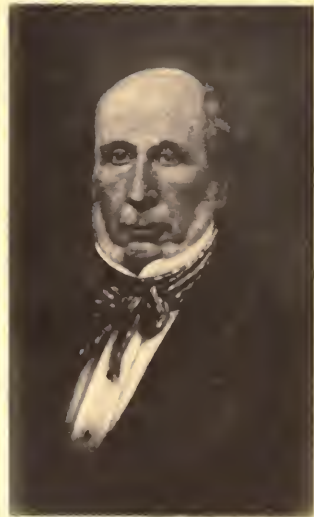
CHAPTER III.

 PRESIDENTS OF THE BROMLEY HOUSE
LIBRARY.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-----------|
| Dr. John Storer, M.D., F.R.S. | - | - | 1816-1819 |
| Rev. R. White Almond, M.A. | - | - | 1819-1853 |
| Samuel Newham | - | - | 1853-1875 |
| Edmund Percy, J.P. | - | - | 1875-1877 |
| T. R. Starey, J.P. | - | - | 1877-1879 |
| Dr. W. P. Phillimore, M.B. | - | - | 1881-1882 |
| (Died during first year of office). | | | |
| J. W. Leavers, J.P. | - | - | 1882-1884 |
| John Manning, Mayor of Nottingham | - | - | 1884-1886 |
| J. White, F.R.C.S. | - | - | 1886-1888 |
| John Bradley | - | - | 1888-1890 |
| J. T. Brewster | - | - | 1890-1892 |
| Robert Evans, J.P. | - | - | 1892-1894 |
| J. Manning, J.P., Mayor of Nottingham | - | - | 1894-1896 |
| W. Bradshaw | - | - | 1896-1898 |
| Sir E. H. Fraser, D.C.L., J.P., Mayor of Nottingham | - | - | 1898-1902 |
| H. E. Hubbart (died while in office) | - | - | 1902-1905 |
| Joseph Page | - | - | 1905-1908 |
| Parker Woodward | - | - | 1908-1911 |
| J. W. Windley | - | - | 1911-1914 |
| John Russell, M.A. | - | - | 1914- |



Rev. R. WHITE ALMOND, M.A.
1819-1853.



SAMUEL NEWHAM.
1853-1875.



Dr. JOHN STORER, M.D., F.R.S.
1816-19.



EDMUND PERCY.
1875-77.



J. W. LEAVERS.
1882-4.

PRESIDENTS.



JOHN STORER, M.D.,F.R.S.

The first President of the Library was Dr. Storer, whose portrait hangs on the wall that faces the staircase as the visitor ascends from the hall to the Library. The portrait was painted by Barber and represents its subject reposing his hand on a skull. Dr. Storer was born on the 21st of July, 1747, in the house of Fossaway, Kinross. He was the son of the Revd. John Storer, and was educated first at the Grammar School of Stirling, 1760-1762, under Dr. Doig, and secondly at the University of Glasgow. Originally he was intended for the Church, but he turned to medicine and entered the Army Medical Service. In a Dutch document, dated October 7th, 1777, signed by William, Prince of Orange, the freedom of the cities of Holland was conferred on Chirurgien Storer of a Scottish Regiment serving in Holland, for having been mainly instrumental in restoring the life of one of the citizens found in a canal. It would appear, however, that this document, so honourable both to the giver and receiver, had been sent to him after he had quitted the army, as in a letter dated 4th August, 1777, we find him settled at Grantham. His period of service in the army is unknown, but it was presumably long, as he became first surgeon. He came to Nottingham from Grantham about May,

1781. He lived for some time at Thurland Hall, but died at Lenton Firs, about which he says in a letter written to the Revd. Wm. Piggott in 1832: "I live in a very pleasant retirement at Lenton Firs, built by Mr. Watson, hosier, and sold after his death. I retired from all professional engagements four years ago, except what I am able to perform in my own library, and which being so near Nottingham, I cannot avoid. In all other respects, except for the frequent visits of our nearest neighbours, we are much abstracted from the affairs of the world, and as becomes those of our advanced years, thinking, I hope, more of that world to which we are bound than of that in which we still linger." It is most interesting and re-assuring to find amid the seething tumult and strife of the Reform Bill movement, a man of science and letters pursuing his quiet way of beneficence to his fellow-men, and the cultivation of his own mind, undistracted and undismayed by the passions raging around him. He died on Sept. 17, 1837, at the age of 90, and was buried at Hawksworth. The above facts are epitomized mainly from a notice that appeared in the Nottingham Journal, and in the same Journal of the date Sept. 29th, 1837, we find the following letter:—

“ Sir,

“ I have read in your ‘ Journal ’ of the last week, a memorial of the decease of Dr. Storer. I felt disappointed that your memoir did not contain, at the least, a few particulars of the history of one of the most useful men of his times, and, although a public man, one who avoided ostentation, and rather shunned than sought popularity—yet a distinguished benefactor to his town and county. It is true that the life of the Doctor has been extended to a length far exceeding that of his contemporaries, and most of those persons who took part in his useful exertions, or who were benefitted by his medical skill, or who were his personal friends, are gone before him into the invisible world : even his very respectable son who would have been best qualified to write his history is also no more here. I have understood that the Doctor’s father was a minister in the Church of Scotland, and that he himself entered the Army as an Officer of the Medical Staff. With the circumstances which led to his settlement in this town I am not acquainted ; but they were of so favourable a cast, that, united with his medical skill and respectability of character he was soon placed at the head of his profession, and he obtained the confidence of the principal families of the town and county, and

of the general body of the medical profession.

“ Dr. Storer’s name ought to stand in connexion with the chief Charitable Establishments of this place : he took a leading and active part in the founding and conducting of the General Hospital—an institution which has for many years been of inexpressible utility. He was actively engaged in the establishment of the Lunatic Asylum ; and he was the father of the Vaccine Institution, by which the progress of that dreadful and destructive pest to society, the confluent smallpox, was arrested, and for a long time almost annihilated. He took an active part in the establishment of the Public Library (Nottingham Subscription Library) ; during many years he presided over the Auxiliary Bible Society of this town and county, and his patronage contributed very materially to the prosperity and usefulness of that Institution. As a member of Society, his character was unsullied, the voice of censure and of slander cannot touch him ; as it respects men, the motto placed at the head of this paper truly describes him (*Pro Rege Lege Grege*). The habit of his mind was that of genuine humility ; disdaining selfrighteousness. Example deserves to be imitated. The long duration of the life of this excellent man, his freedom from severe personal suffering, and the preserva-

tion of his intellectual powers to the last hour of his existence, may, I apprehend, be attributed under Divine Providence, to the regularity of his life, the habitual calmness of his mind, and the constant peace of his conscience ; but this subject is worthy of the philosophical investigation of the Doctor's Medical friends." (For some further remarks on Dr. Storer, see Journal Sept. 22nd, 1837).

Extract from report to Subscribers presented at Annual Meeting 6th April, 1819 :—" The Committee have to express their most sincere regret at the loss which the Nottingham Subscription Library is about to sustain in Dr. Storer's resignation of the office of President ; acquiescing in this determination, they cannot avoid reflecting that the countenance and support given by Dr. Storer has been of the greatest importance to the success of this Institution, and that to his kind services must be attributed a great part of its present prosperity." Resolved : " That this meeting has received with great regret the intimation of Dr. Storer's intention to resign the office of President ; and that the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. Storer for his kind and unremitted attention to the interests of this Institution."

Library Minutes Oct. 2nd 1820 : " A suggestion having

been made that Mr. Barber should wish to become a subscriber to the Library on the terms of painting a portrait instead of the usual sum paid for a share." Resolved: "That such offer shall be accepted and that Dr. Storer shall be requested to sit for his portrait."

In the Minute of November 6th, Dr. Storer's reply, which was addressed to the Rev. R. W. Almond. is given: "My dear Sir,

"In reply to the request you made to me yesterday in the name of the Committee and the Members of the Subscription Library, 'that I should sit to Mr. Barber, Junr. for my portrait to be placed in their Library,' I am bound to receive that request in the spirit with which it was made, as a compliment to me, and as expressing the approbation of so respectable a body for the slender service I was able to render the Institution during the years I had the honour to occupy the Chair. I should ill deserve the distinction conferred by such approbation if I did not know how to value it. Yet I can declare unaffectedly that I am unconscious of any other merit than my warmest wishes in common with many others for the prosperity of the institution and my earnest desire that the collection of books might be found worthy of the pains and expenses bestowed in forming it—I am



ROBERT EVANS,
1892-4.



JOHN MANNING,
1884-6, 1894-6.



SIR EDWARD FRASER, D.C.L.
1898-1902



WILLIAM BRADSHAW,
1896-1898.



JOHN BRADLEY,
1888-1890.

PRESIDENTS.



aware that this is rather an argument in addition to the inducements by which I feel myself called upon to acquiesce in the request of so highly respectable a body, and which I now do with sincere gratitude for their obliging acceptance of my very imperfect services, and for the compliment intended me as a proof of it—and to you, Sir, my best thanks are due for the flattering terms in which their wishes were made known to me.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your most obedient Sevt.,

JOHN STORER.

Nottingham, 24th October, 1820.”

ROBERT WHITE ALMOND, M.A.

“ The Rev. Robert White Almond died on Saturday, Sep. 24th, 1853 at his residence in Russell Street, in the 70th year of his age. He was rector of St. Peter’s Church in this town, of which he had performed the duties for the last 39 years; and by his uniform, kind and philanthropic conduct to all classes of his parishioners and fellow-townsmen, during so long a period, he gained for himself the universal esteem and good-will of all

who knew him. The poor have lost a true friend, and the afflicted a never failing participator in their distress, and the unremitting and valuable services he has for many years rendered to the General Hospital, and other charitable institutions of this town, made his loss a public calamity ; and his memory will long be revered by a large and respectable community. He was interred on Sept. 30th, 1853, in a vault situated in the chancel of St. Peter's Church, Nottingham, within the bounds of the Sacarium." (Nottm. Journal).

The name Almond has come again into notice of late years, through the school-master Almond of Loretto, an account of whose work will be found on the Library shelves. .

At a Special General Meeting of Subscribers, Oct. 24th, 1853, Mr. Francis Braithwaite presiding, it was unanimously resolved that the following address be sent to the family of the late Rev. R. W. Almond, expressing regret of the shareholders of the Institution by the death of their late President : " That this meeting desires to express its deep regret at the loss sustained by the death of the late Rev. R. W. Almond, who filled the office of President of this Institution upwards of thirty-four years ; and at the same time to record its sense of the

great value of those services, which he rendered during the period, and to which it is indebted for much of its long continued prosperity.”

HONORARY SECRETARIES.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| John Pearson | - | - | - | - | 1821-1831 |
| Samuel Newham | - | - | - | - | 1831-1853 |
| Rev. Hy. Bell | - | - | - | - | 1853-1875 |
| Wm. P. Phillimore, M.B. | - | - | - | - | 1875-1881 |
| S. H. Sands | - | - | - | - | 1881-1892 |
| H. E. Hubbart | - | - | - | - | 1892-1903 |
| J. Russell, M.A. | - | - | - | - | 1903-1914 |
| Joseph Page | - | - | - | - | 1914- |

LIBRARIANS.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| William Hardy | - | - | - | - | 1816-1819 |
| Valentine Kirk | - | - | - | - | 1819-1821 |
| James Archer | - | - | - | - | 1821-1835 |
| John Walton | - | - | - | - | 1835-1857 |
| Count Ubaldo Marioni | - | - | - | - | 1857-1867 |
| John C. Banwell | - | - | - | - | 1867-1893 |
| William Moore | - | - | - | - | 1893-1899 |
| Arthur Lineker | - | - | - | - | 1899- |

SAMUEL NEWHAM.

At the Annual Meeting on the 6th of April, 1875, the Revd. W. R. Stevenson in the chair, the following Resolution was moved by Mr. M. Browne, seconded by Mr. C. N. Wright, and carried unanimously : " The death of S. Newham, Esq., has deprived this Institution of a long tried and valuable officer. For about 24 years we had the benefit of his almost daily services as Honorary Secretary, and on the death of the Revd. R. W. Almond in 1853, Mr. Newham was unanimously chosen to succeed him as President. So long as his health and strength permitted, his attention to the interests of the Library was unintermitting, and this Meeting would be wanting in what it owes to itself, as well as to the Memory of Mr. Newham, if it omitted to record in its Book of Proceedings, a strong expression of regret at his removal, and the very deep sense of obligation we feel for his long continued and inestimable services.

" At the same time we would tender to Mr. Newham's family our sincere sympathy under the loss they have sustained."

Two presentations were made to him, viz. :—

A silver inkstand was presented by the Bromley House

Members, inscribed as follows :—

*Presented to
Samuel Newham, Esq., by the Members of the
Nottingham Subscription Library,
In testimony of their respect for his valuable and gratuitous
services,
During a period of nine years as Honorary Secretary.
27th Aug., 1840.*

A Silver Tray :—

*To
Samuel Newham, Esq., from the Members of The Nottingham
Chess Club as a mark of their esteem.
Oct., 18th, 1837.*

Mr. Newham's interest in Shakespeare is commemorated by the Newham Prize at the Nottingham High School, and a few years ago he had a representative on the Library Committee in the person of his nephew, Mr. Newham Berrey.

DR. W. P. PHILLIMORE.

The Committee of Bromley House Library desire to record their grief at the loss of their President, Dr. Phillimore, and whilst tendering their heartfelt sympathy

to the bereaved family, desire to express their sense of the highly efficient manner in which their deceased friend discharged the duties of Honorary Secretary for many years, as well as those attaching to the office of President more recently filled by him. *Minute.* Dec. 5th, 1881.

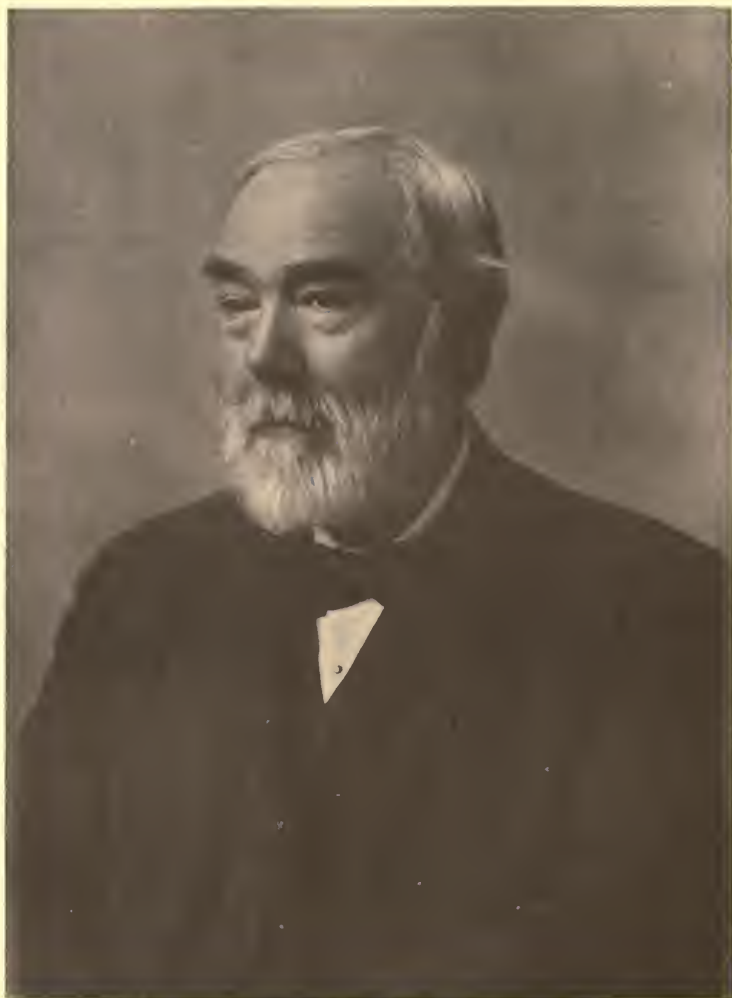
MR. S. H. SANDS.

The Committee regret to announce that they have received from Mr. S. H. Sands his resignation of the office of Honorary Secretary, the duties of which have been most ably discharged by him for upwards of eleven years, with considerable benefit to the Institution. Mr. H. E. Hubbard, a member of the Committee, has kindly expressed his willingness to accept the post of Honorary Secretary, if it be the pleasure of the Subscribers to elect him.—*Annual Report*, 1892.

MR. HUBBART'S RETIREMENT.

At the Annual Meeting in 1902 the Revd. J. A. Mitchell proposed, and Mr. J. Page seconded :

“ That this meeting desires to place on record its



JOHN RUSSELL, M.A.

THE PRESIDENT.
1918.

high appreciation of the eminent services rendered to the Library by the Honorary Secretary (Mr. Hubbart) and to express its deep regret that he feels unable to submit himself for re-election to the office.

“ During the ten years of his Secretaryship, Mr. Hubbart has devoted much time to the interests of the Institution, while his wide knowledge of books and affairs of business has proved invaluable, both in the ordinary routine of the administration of the Library, and on occasions of critical importance. Such valuable services deserve not only to be briefly mentioned, but also to be permanently recorded, and this meeting instructs the Committee to place this resolution on the Minute Book, as an expression of gratitude to Mr. Hubbart for his long, able and distinguished services in the office of Honorary Secretary.”—*April 8th, 1902.*

MR. RUSSELL'S RETIREMENT.

At the Annual Meeting held on April 20th, 1914, the following resolution was passed unanimously on the proposition of Mr. Parker Woodward, seconded by Mr. Henry Crewdson :—

“ That this meeting of Subscribers desires to record upon the Minutes of the Institution its acknowledgement of the most valuable and unremitting services of our newly elected president during his twelve years term of office as Honorary Secretary. It also desires to keep on record the graceful and kindly terms of Mr. Russell’s letter accepting the office of President and directs that his letter be also copied in the minutes of this meeting.”



PARKER WOODWARD.
1908-11.



JOSEPH PAGE.
1905-8.



JOHN W. WINDLEY.
1911-14.



HENRY E. HUBBART.
1902-4.

PRESIDENTS.

1900

1900

1900

1900

1900

CHAPTER IV.

OF THE STANDFAST LIBRARY AND OTHER COLLECTIONS.

The Library has been enriched from time to time by the kindness and liberality of various subscribers, whose names and gifts have been recorded in the minutes or in the Annual Reports ; but special mention must be made of three collections of books, the Standfast Library, the Philip James Bailey Collection, and the James Ward Collection.

THE STANDFAST LIBRARY.

The Revd. William Standfast, son of Nicholas Standfast of Bristol, was born in 1683. He was an Oxford man with the degrees of M.A. 1704, and (Dr. of Medicine) 1729. In 1721, he was appointed Rector of Clifton, Nottinghamshire, and he died there in 1754 at the age of 71. Ten years before his death he founded the Standfast Library, the following account of which is taken from Godfrey's Churches of Nottinghamshire, Hundred of Rushcliffe. In the year 1744, Dr. Standfast intimated to the Governors of the Blue Coat School,

Nottingham, his intention of giving his "whole study of books, to lay the foundation of a Public Library," for the use of persons of liberal education residing in the town and its immediate neighbourhood. This intimation appears to have been accompanied with a request that the books might be deposited in the premises belonging to the Charity, and the master of the school allowed to discharge the duties of Librarian. At a meeting of the Governors of the school, held 23rd May, 1744, it was unanimously ordered and agreed, "That the Great Room belonging to the Schoolhouse be appropriated for the use of a Public Library; and that the same shall from henceforward be made use of as a repository for all such books as shall be given to the same, under and subject to such rules and regulations as shall be adjusted for the conducting thereof"; and it was then further ordered and agreed, "That the Mayor and the Rev. Dr. Berdmore, with the other Clergymen of the said Town of Nottingham, and as many of the Trustees as please to attend, be a Committee to return the said Dr. Standfast the thanks of the Trustees for such his generous proposal." According to the rules, the Library was "founded by the Reverend Doctor William Standfast, Rector of Clifton, near Nottingham, for the use of the Clergy, Lawyers,

Phicitions, and other persons of a liberal and learned education, living and inhabiting in the said town, or within and not above the distance of eight computed miles from it." The Library is under the "Trust, Inspection, and Visitation of the Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry of Nottingham, his official, and their successors for ever; the Vicar of St. Mary's, the Rector of St. Peter's, the Rector of St. Nicholas, in the town of Nottingham, the Rector of Clifton near Nottingham, the Rector of Wilford, the Rector of Wollaton, the Rector of Barton, all in the County of Nottingham, and their successors for ever." It is very uncertain whether this liberal donation ever attracted the notice of the public, or answered the intentions of Dr. Standfast, though it may, perhaps, be inferred from the silence of Deering, whose History of Nottingham was published in 1751, that the existence of a Library intended for the use of the public was at that time scarcely known. In all probability the same want of funds for the repair of the books, and the remuneration of the Librarian, which afterwards prevented the Trustees from throwing open the Library to the public, might operate from its first institution. After remaining useless and neglected for years, this difficulty was removed in the year 1816, by the Trustees placing the collection,

which consists of old Theological, Classical, and Medical Works, under certain conditions, in the newly established Subscription Library, now better known as the Bromley House Library, where they are preserved in a room set apart for them, and in charge of the Librarian of that institution.

A sum of £5 was to be spent annually by the Bromley House Library Committee in additions and repairs to the Standfast Collection.

The following notes are extracted from the minutes of Bromley House Library, May 3rd, 1816 :—

Resolved. That the Rev. G. Hutchinson and the Rev. R. W. Almond be requested to take the earliest opportunity to negotiate with the Archdeacon and the other Trustees of Dr. Standfast's Library with a view to its being removed to the apartments of the Institution and placed under the care of the Library Committee : subject to such conditions and regulations as may be agreed upon between them, as the most likely to secure the safe custody of the books and render the collection of more general use.

June, 5th, 1816.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Lending Library founded by the Rev. Standfast and now placed in the

Charity School Chamber in the Town and County of the Town of Nottingham held on 7th day of May, 1816.

A proposition having been made by the Committee of the Nottingham Subscription Library for the removal of the above Library from the Charity School Chamber to the rooms of the Subscription Library for the purpose of promoting the more general utility of the Standfast Library conformably with the original intention of the Founder. Resolved:—

“ That the Trustees do consent to the removal of the whole of the said Standfast Library from the Charity School Chamber to the premises now occupied by the Nottingham Subscription Library in the Town of Nottingham aforesaid upon the terms and subject to the rules and regulations following :—

1st—That the whole of the books in the said Standfast Library and any books which may hereafter be added to the Standfast Library by purchase, gift, bequest, or otherwise, shall be kept in the room occupied by the Nottingham Subscription Library on distinct shelves from the other books in such room and shall be placed under the care and superintendence of the Librarian of the Institution according to the Rules affecting the same.

2nd.—That the books shall at all times be open to the inspection or visitation of the Trustees for the time being appointed by the Founder of the Standfast Library or any of them for any purposes connected with the trust reposed in them.

3rd.—That the books in the Standfast Library shall and may be lent to all the Subscribers to the Nottingham Subscription Library for the same periods and subject to the same fines and regulations as if such books constituted for the time being a part of the Nottingham Subscription Library.

4th.—That the proprietors of the Nottingham Subscription Library shall pay to the Trustees of the Standfast Library the sum of five pounds a year on the first Wednesday in May in every year during so long time as the books shall remain in the Nottingham Subscription Library which sum shall be applied by the Trustees in the purchase of books or in any other way which may appear to them conducive to the interests and prosperity of the Standfast Library.

5th.—That the books in the Standfast Library shall be put into a proper state of repair by the Trustees on their removal from the Charity School Chamber

and that after that time they shall be kept in good repair by the proprietors of the Nottingham Subscription Library at their own expense so long as they remain in the Library and be delivered in the like repair at any time conformably to the seventh rule.

6th.—That nothing in these rules shall prejudice or affect the rights or interests of the Trustees of the Standfast Library, or of any person or persons entitled to any benefit or privilege from the same, under the rules originally established for the management of the said Library which rules shall remain in full force except so far as they may be altered by the above regulations or any of them.

7th.—That the Trustees of the Standfast Library shall have full power at any time hereafter to revoke, annul, alter, or amend these resolutions or any of them or to remove the Library to any other situation without assigning any reason for their conduct, and that upon such removal the Committee of the Nottingham Subscription Library shall be accountable for any damage or deficiency which may have happened to any of the said Books whilst they shall remain in their hands.

(Signed) :

Charles Wylde, Official.

George Hutchinson, Vicar of St. Mary's in Nottm.

Robt. W. Almond, Rector of St. Peter's in Nottm.

George Sanders, Rector of Wollaton-cum-Cossall.

Owen Dinsdale, Rector of Wilford.

Resolved :

That an offer be made to the Trustees of the Standfast Library to pay them the sum of £3 per annum, and the whole of the fines to be incurred upon the books belonging to their Library, instead of the annual sum of £5 proposed by them, and that out of this sum the books shall be put and kept in repair by the Trustees of the Standfast Library from time to time and that in all other respects the resolutions of the Trustees be acceded to, and that the Rev. R. W. Almond be requested to convey this offer to the Trustees.

That the books belonging to this Society be insured for £1,000, and the furniture for £100, and the Standfast Library for £500, and that Mr. Wakefield be requested to make the same.

At a later date we read that it was resolved at a meeting that the five guineas due last May be paid to

Rev. R. W. Almond on account of the Standfast Library, and there is a memorandum of the date, May 4th, 1819:—

The Standfast Library was visited by us the Archdeacon and Trustees.

John Eyre.

George Wilkins, Vicar of St. Mary's.

Robert Almond, Rector of St. Peter's.

It has been stated in a previous chapter that the Library has been transferred from the room originally assigned to it, to one of the upper chambers of the Library building, in order to make room for modern books in more general demand.

Among interesting books in the Collection may be mentioned :

Calderinus in Martialem, printed by Gensburg at Rome, 1474.

Bartholomew de Glanville, *De Proprietatibus Rerum*, in Dutch, by Jacob Bellaert, Haarlem, 1455.

Abbreviated Statutes of the Realm, printed by Richard Pynson, a pupil of Caxton, London, 1499.

Peter Comestor, *Scholastica Historia* and Venerable Bede's *Ecclesiastica Historia*, printed at Strasburg, 1500.

- Constitutiones Provinciales, Wilhelm Lynwode,
annotated by Andre Bocard, 1501.
- Euphormionis Lusinini Satyricon, 1522.
- Exposition of Common Crede, printed by Robert
Redman, 1530.
- Great Abrydgment of Statutes of England, printed
by Robert Redman, London, 1539.
- Theologia Naturalis. Sabundi, 1540.
- Calvin's Commentary on Hebrew, in French, 1549.
- Liber Psalmorum, Antwerp, 1564.
- A fine copy of Tacitus, folio, printed at the Plantin
Press. Antwerp.

THE PHILIP JAMES BAILEY COLLECTION

consists of a number of books selected from the Poet's Library through the kindness of his executors. The books are interesting not for their intrinsic worth so much as for the light they throw upon Bailey's studies and thought. There are several early copies of "Festus" with the Author's marginal notes and corrections for future editions; and a book "Poesis Philosophica." Henricus Stephens, 1573, deserves special mention. It



THE LIBRARY.

Arthur Luncker.

consists of extracts from Empedocles and other old philosophers whose theories the author of "Festus" had evidently studied.

THE JAMES WARD COLLECTION

consists mainly of works relating to Nottingham and the neighbourhood which apart from their interest to the inhabitants will be found useful to students and writers of local history.

THE LIBRARY.

The Library comprises upwards of 35,000 volumes of General Literature, and the following is a list of Manuscripts and important books worthy of special mention.

Manuscripts relating to the Town and County of Nottingham.

1. Deering, Dr. Manuscripts of the History of Nottingham, with observations by John Plumtree, Esq. Prospectus, Autographs of Subscribers, &c. Quarto.
2. Deering Papers : containing the collections made by Dr. Deering, of Materials for the History of Nottingham ; the life of Deering, by himself, in a letter to Mr. Bury ; his Ensign's Commission ; the

accounts of the Troops raised at Nottingham in the Rebellion in 1745, &c. Folio.

3. A copy in the handwriting of Dr. Deering, of a History of Nottingham, by an anonymous author in the year 1641. Quarto.

4. Another Copy of the Anonymous History of Nottingham, and of Deering's Letter to Mr. Bury.

5. Copy of Sherwood Forest Book, with Perambulations, &c. Folio.

6. Documents relative to Sherwood Forest ; consisting of the Proceedings of the Justices in Eyre, 3rd Edward III. Proceedings before the Lord Warden of the Forest of Sherwood, from 1660 to 1676. MS. Digest of Forest Laws. Extracts from original Records, by S. Rooper. Copies of Deeds and original Court Rolls, and Proceedings of Swainmote and Forest Courts at Mansfield, from 1642 to 1675.

7. References to various Public Records relating to the Town and County of Nottingham, by the Very Rev. Sir Richard Kaye, Bart. Folio.

8. Various Memoranda relating to Nottinghamshire, &c., by the Very Rev. Sir Richard Kaye, Bart. Folio.

9. Deering's Catalogue of Plants growing about Nottingham, interleaved with MS. additions, by the Author, &c., and the rare occasional Dedication to William Griffiths, Esq.

10. Calendar to the Hall Books of the Corporation of Nottingham from the reign of Henry VII. to the reign of James I. inclusive, by William Illingworth, Deputy Keeper of the Records in the Tower. 1818. Folio.

11. A Collection of early MSS. Relating to the Forest of Sherwood, Forest Laws, &c.

Survey of the Inclosure Lyinge within the Lordshipp of Mansfield Woodhouse, taken in the yeare 1612, by Charles Caldecott.

The Customarie of Maunsfield in Shirwood, &c.

An Inquisition taken at Newarke ye fifth of Decr. (Temp. Eliz.) before Edward, Earl of Rutland.

Notes of Records taken out of the Great Book of Mr. Justice Rodes, &c.

12. History of Nottinghamshire. (Attributed to Serjeant Bown, father-in-law of Robt. Thoroton, 1644.) Folio.

The earliest printed book in the Collection is
Crisostomi, J. Sermones de Patientia, Job.
Nuremberge. 1471.

Other early specimens of the printer's art, are :—
Calderini, D. Commentarii. 1474.

Nuremberg Chronicle, printed by Anthony
Koberger, 1493, illustrated by Michael Wolmegut (the
teacher of Albert Durer), and Wm. Pleydendourff.
Folio.

Book of Hours printed on Vellum by P. Pigouchet
for S. Vostre, Paris. 1495.

Most of the illustrations and borders are beautifully
illuminated.

Boccacio's Novels and Tales. 1684.

Sidney, Sir P. Arcadia. 1633.

Bears the autograph of Henry Kirk White on the title
page.

A most unique item is a copy of—

Byron's Poems on Various Occasions printed by
Ridge at Newark, 1807.

Only four or five copies of this work are known to
be in existence.

The Library also contains perhaps one of the finest

public collections of County Histories in the Midlands.

The editions are in the main, large folios or quartos in splendid condition, and points to the fact that the Committees in the early days of the Library were extremely keen in building up this particular section of the Collection.

Nichols' History of Leicestershire 8 vols. folio, 1815, is doubtless the most valuable of them all.

Of particular local interest is a copy of Blackner's History of Nottingham, with many additional plates, &c. collected by Kirke Swann and presented to the Library by George Freeth, Esq.

Other local books .—

Deering's History of Nottingham. 1751.

Jowett's Nottinghamshire Plants, Dried Specimens.
4 vols. folio.

Ordoyno's Flora Nottinghamiensis. 1807.

Parkyns Grammatical Introduction to Latin. 1716.

„ Queries and Reasons. 1724.

„ On Wrestling. 1714.

Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire. fol. 1677.

Throsby's History of Nottingham. 1795.

Early files of Nottingham Newspapers which are very scarce :—

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Nottingham Journal | 1758-1763 and 1767-1890. |
| „ Chronicle | 1772-1775. |
| „ Gazette | 1813-1815. |
| „ Herald | 1825-1827. |
| „ Mercury | 1825-1829. |

A very interesting book is the Visitors' List which contains the autographs of many of the best known Nottingham men for the last hundred years and the names of many persons, not a few distinguished, who have been admitted for a time to enjoy the advantages of the Library. One name, that of Mr. Daft Churchill has a melancholy interest attaching to it. In 1858 he perished in the wreck of the S.S. *Forfarshire*, the vessel in connexion with which Grace Darling so nobly assisted her father in the work of rescue.—(*See Granger's Nottingham Notes*, 1st Series, p. 132, 2nd series, p. 106.)

CHAPTER V.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES, PICTURES, &c.

It is clear from the minutes of the Library that in its early days it was the home of several scientific societies, and that it possessed cabinets of fossils and other collections. One naturally asks: Where are these? and where are also some of the pictures mentioned in the minutes and elsewhere now non-existent at Bromley House? Is it improper to suggest that there were some people who had taken too literally Shakespeare's line "Convey the wise it call" and had translated it into action?

Evidences at the present day of the former interest in scientific matters exist in the two large globes, one terrestrial, the other celestial; in the wind indicator in the large front room, communicating with the vane outside; in one at least of the two fine old clocks, and in the device for ascertaining the true solar time daily

at noon-day. The clock faces bear the following inscriptions :—

INSCRIBED ON STRIKING CLOCK.

Latitudes and Longitudes from the Trigonometrical Survey of England and Wales by Col. Mudge and others.

| Names of Places. | Latitudes. | Longitudes. | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------------|--|---|----------|
| | | West of Greenwich. | | | In time. |
| | ° ' " | ° ' " | | m | s |
| Greenwich Observatory | 51 28 40 | 0 0 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| London, St. Paul's .. | 51 30 49 | 0 5 47 | | 0 | 23 |
| Lincoln Minster .. | 53 44 7 | 0 32 1 | | 2 | 8 |
| Bottesford Church .. | 52 56 40 | 0 47 45 | | 3 | 11 |
| Newark Church .. | 53 4 30 | 0 49 18 | | 3 | 17 |
| Langar Observatory .. | 52 55 3 | 0 51 27 | | 3 | 26 |
| Bingham Church .. | 52 57 12 | 0 56 38 | | 3 | 47 |
| Nottingham. St. Mary's | | | | | |
| Church .. | 52 57 8 | 1 8 14 | | 4 | 33 |
| Loughborough Church .. | 52 46 31 | 1 11 54 | | 4 | 48 |
| Derby All Saints Church | 52 55 32 | 1 28 16 | | 5 | 53 |

Clocks at Nottingham are slower than at Greenwich 4 mins. 33 secs. and slower than St. Paul's, London 4 mins. 10 secs.

INSCRIBED ON CLOCK FACING LIBRARY DOOR.

| | Latitude. | Longitude. | Long in time. |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|------------------|
| | ° ' " | ° ' " | m s |
| Greenwich Observatory | 51 28 40 | 0 0 0 | 0 0 |
| St. Paul's, London .. | 51 30 49 | 0 5 47W | 0 23 |
| St. Mary's, Nottingham.. | 52 57 8 | 1 8 14W | 4 33 |

Clocks at Nottingham are slower than at Greenwich

m s

m s

4 33 and slower than St. Paul's, London 4 10

Whitehurst & Son,

DERBY.

1830.

And now for the time indicating device. On the outside of the southern window of the old Standfast Library room, a wooden shutter-like erection was fixed, pierced with a small hole which admitted light to pass through the window. The position of the hole was such that when the sun passed our meridian a beam of light was sent along a brass strip placed due North and South on the floor and struck a plumb-bob suspended on a door on the other side of the room right opposite to the shutter. Records of observation were taken and placed in an aumbry or cupboard on the case of one of the clocks.

Several of these records still lying in the cupboard were discovered a few years ago by the Librarian.

It would seem that the Library in addition to other forms of usefulness served as time keeper for the town.

The shutter and the hole are still in situ, the brass strip is hidden beneath the linoleum of the floor, the plumb-bob has disappeared, but the hollow space for its reception remains in the door.

Specimens of notes taken from the clock, relating to differences of time.

July 15th, 1827.—Clock adjusted from solar observation, and is now 5" too fast (meantime).

December 23rd, 1827.—This clock is now exactly at meantime.

May 20th, 1828.—This clock is now slower than meantime, 18".

May 22nd, 1835.—This clock is now slower 1' 29" too slow.

PICTURES.

First Duke of Richmond, by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

The present Duke says likeness resembles likeness in a picture in his possession.

Unknown portrait of Field-marshal holding baton.



CHIMNEY PIECE WITH RAWSON WALKER'S "CLIFTON GROVE."



FRIEZE ON STAIRCASE.

Arthur Lincker.

Kirke White. "The Revd. Neville White having presented to the Library a portrait of his late brother, Henry Kirke White, copied from the best likeness known (in the possession of the Revd. Samuel Maddock.)" Resolved: "that the thanks of the Committee be conveyed to Mr. Neville White for his valuable present."—*Minutes.*

Dr. Storer, full length portrait by Thos. Barber.

Minutes, October 2nd, 1820. A suggestion having been made that Mr. Thomas Barber would wish to become a subscriber to the Library on the terms of painting a portrait, instead of the usual sum paid for a share.

Resolved: That such offer shall be accepted, and that Dr. Storer shall be requested to sit for his portrait.

September 6th, 1824. Resolved: That the thanks of the Committee be presented to Mr. Dowland for having presented an engraved portrait of the late Mr. James Dowland with the papers relating to Deering.

Byron. A small portrait presented by the late Mrs. Chaworth Musters.

Landscape over door.

Clifton Grove, by Rawson Walker. Over fireplace in front Reading Room.

Monday, November 6th, 1820.

Mr. Walker having proposed to paint a Landscape as an ornament to Bromley House instead of the price of a share. Resolved : That his offer shall be accepted.

—*Minutes.*

Sea-piece, in the manner of Van der Veld, by Francis Swaine. (Note in Minute Book).

Indoor Scene in the manner of Teniers. Likely to be by John Collet imitating Hemskirk. (Note in Minute Book).

General Washington : pastel by John Russell, R.A.

Colonel Elliott, by T. Barber, Senr.

Philip James Bailey ; Carbon photograph.

Samuel Newham, crayon drawing, by Josiah Gilbert, presented by Mrs. J. T. Brewster.

Thomas Wakefield, by Sylvanus Redgate.

Engravings of 1st Lord Howe, George Coldham (town-clerk during Luddite disturbances). Thomas Hawksley, 1802, father of the better known Thomas Hawksley, Water Engineer.

Revd. R. W. Almond. Portrait in Oils.

April 2nd, 1821. Resolved : That Mr. Clifton Tomson's offer to paint a picture for a share in the Library be accepted, and that he shall be balloted for at the general meeting.—*Minutes.*

CHAPTER VI.

MISCELLANEA FROM THE MINUTES.

Among the names of those through whom the Library has obtained books may be mentioned :—

Messrs. Ryan, Stretton, C. N. Wright, Dearden, Barnett, Bell, Saxton, Derry, Dunn.

May 3rd, 1816 :

Your Committee report that they have agreed with Messrs. Wright for the premises in Carlton Street at an annual rent of £70 to commence from Old Ladyday.

July 5th, 1816 :

Thoroton's Nottinghamshire to be procured from Mr. Ryan.

August 2nd, 1816 :

That the Secretary from time to time do transmit the thanks of the Committee to such gentlemen as favour the Society with presents of books, and that the names of the Donors be inserted in such books and in the Catalogue.

August 16th, 1816 :

Copy of letter to be sent to those Gentlemen who have presented books to the Library.

Sir,

I am directed by the Committee of the Nottingham Subscription Library to transmit to you their thanks for your Donation of ——.

March 13th, 1817 :

Papers ordered for next year for the newsroom.

Gazette. Morning Chronicle.

Courier. Prices Current.

Sun. Two Nottingham Papers.

Globe. Liverpool and Hull Papers.

Statesman. Army and Navy Lists. Quarterly.

Times.

Papers sold, 20th June, 1817, at the following prices :—

| | | | | | £ | s. | d. |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Times | - | - | - | - | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Globe | - | - | - | - | 1 | 17 | 0 |
| Sun | - | - | - | - | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| Statesman | - | - | - | - | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Morning Chronicle | - | - | - | - | 1 | 7 | 0 |

May 1st, 1818 :

Resolved : That a note be addressed to Mr. Lawson calling his attention to the rules from the 28th to the 30th inclusive, and stating that the Committee will be under the necessity of enforcing these rules in Mr. Lawson's case, and that no transfer of a share can be sanctioned by the Committee so long as any question of forfeits on that share remain unsettled.

That the Sub-Treasurer be requested to take charge of the Insurance Policy.

May 15th, 1818 :

Resolved : That in consequence of an application from John Smith, Esq., requesting that Mr. H. Harvey be allowed to receive books in Mr. Smith's name, that the Committee are not permitted by the rules to allow of any substitution of a person not a member, for one who is.

August 2nd, 1819.

The 2nd vol. of the Modern British Drama being produced by the Librarian, which he reported as having been damaged while in the possession of Mr. A., it was resolved that the Committee consider this volume as

materially damaged, and that Mr. A. be required to replace the volume, or take the entire work, and replace it with a new copy agreeably to the 31st Rule which is sub-joined.

Reported that the Revd. R. W. Almond and Mr. John Pearson have purchased casts for the Library to the amount of £3 10s. 6d., and that the thanks of the Committee be given to them, and to Mr. Staveley for his present of two casts.

February 17th, 1820 :

A serious representation was made of some person having defaced " Wordsworth's Excursion " by a very unjustifiable marginal note tending to vilify one of the Christian Sacraments.

Resolved : That the severest animadversion of the Committee be passed upon the person so injuring this volume, and the subscribers are particularly requested to abstain from so unwarrantable a practice.

February, 1820 :

Deerings' History of Nottingham bought. Price, £2 12s. 6d.

April 7th, 1820 .

The Committee having taken into consideration the

estimate of the purchase of Bromley House which has been made by Mr. Stretton, upon a review of that estimate they deem it advisable to recommend to the Special General Meeting the propriety of endeavouring to purchase that property, providing the amount of the purchase should not exceed the limits which the Committee think it necessary to prescribe.

May 1st, 1820 :

Mr. Pearson reported that the Committee for the purchase of Bromley House had in pursuance of the powers delegated to them, purchased the premises by auction for the sum of £2,750, and taken necessary steps for confirming same.

Resolved : That the fines for non-attendance of the Committee shall for the future be regularly collected by the Librarian, and that every gentleman not present when the President takes the chair at a quarter past 12, shall be fined.

May 20th, 1820 :

Mr. Joseph Braithwaite applied for the purchase of an original share at £7 7s. 0d. He was admitted as a temporary member.

Monday, November 20th, 1820 :

A deputation having waited upon Messrs. Wright, the Treasurers, requesting them to advance the sum of £1,700, the balance necessary to complete the purchase as a temporary loan on the personal security of the purchasers ; Messrs. Wright declined making the advance, and an application was then made to Messrs. Smith, who consented to advance the same.

Resolved : That the money now in Messrs. Wright's hands on account of the purchase, shall be immediately paid to Messrs. Smith, and that a note for £1,700 be given to them for the sum advanced.

April 2nd, 1821.

Resolved : That Mr. Clifton Tomson's offer to paint a picture for a share in the Library be accepted, and that he shall be balloted for at the general meeting.

April 2nd, 1821 :

Resolved : That the Society shall be recommended to enlarge the number of shares to 220, and increase the admission to £10 10s. 0d. besides the annual subscription.

Monday, April 2nd, 1821 :

Mr. B. was proposed a member of the Library in the room of Mr. A., but as it appears that the 2nd vol. of the Modern Drama was materially damaged in his hands.

Resolved : That previous to the Ballot taking place, the work must be replaced by a new copy or a fine of five shillings paid.

Resolved : That a similar notification be made to to Mr. C. respecting his fine of five shillings and fivepence.

October 1st, 1821 :

Resolved : That a notice shall be given to Mr. N. that his share will be sold in three months unless his arrears are paid up in the meantime.

December 3rd, 1821 :

Many subscribers having expressed a wish that the Library should be furnished with a clock, Mr. Staveley kindly offered to lend one to the Society until the funds would allow of one being purchased.

Resolved : That a Barometer and Thermometer shall be purchased for the Library and that Mr. Almond and Mr. Staveley shall procure them.

Resolved : That Mr. Staveley be requested to procure a pair of Barden's 18 inch. Globes for the Library.

That the five guineas due last May be paid to Rev. Mr. Almond on account of the Standfast Library.

February 4th, 1822 :

Resolved : That Mr. Stretton and Mr. Staveley be

appointed a Sub-Committee for the purpose of ordering a Gilt Frame for the painting of Dr. Storer not exceeding the price of 15 guineas, and that they be requested to confer with Mr. Barber on the subject.

Mr. Thomas Jowett having presented Fasciculus of an Herbarium Nottinghamshire, with an intimation of his intention to complete the collection at a future period.

March 4th, 1822 :

Mr. Jowett having presented another Fasciculus of his Herbarium.

Resolved : That the thanks of this meeting be presented to him for his valuable present.

Resolved : That the Sub-Committee for the purchase of a frame for Dr. Storer's portrait be authorized to extend the price of 20 guineas.

January 6th, 1823. Mr. T. Radford has become a purchaser of an original share at £11 11s. 0d.

The value of shares has shown many fluctuations. Some have been sold for as much as upward of £47, while others have changed hands for only £5. The number of shareholders is limited to 300, and a few years ago it was resolved that £50 should be the sum to be paid for a share obtained directly from the Committee.

It should be borne in mind that a member of the Library in addition to enjoying its literary privileges, is also part proprietor of the freehold property.

January 6th, 1823 :

The Treasurer informed the Committee that the note of hand for £1,700 given by the five Subscribers below mentioned, 20th November is cancelled :

Rev. R. W. Almond.

Mr. W. Stretton.

Mr. Thos. Wakefield.

Mr. E. Staveley.

Mr. Hopper.

March, 1823 :

Messrs. Barber and Walker who have been admitted members in consequence of presenting paintings to the Library having misunderstood the terms on which they were to hold their shares.

Resolved : That notice be given to those gentlemen that no arrears of Subscription now due shall be expected from them, but that in future they would be chargeable with the annual subscription on the same footing as the other Subscribers, and also shall have the privilege of selling their shares.

The Rev. L. Chapman paid the sum of one penny for the annual rent for the privilege of the door from his garden into the Library garden due at Ladyday last.

March 1st, 1824 :

No books ordered as the state of the funds will not permit.

July 26th, 1824 :

Dr. Davies communicated to the meeting that the manuscript copy of Dr. Deering's History of Nottingham was advertised for sale amongst the Library of Mr. Dowland, of Cuckney, and that many members of the Library wished to have it purchased for the Library.

Resolved : That a commission be given to Mr. Jowett and Mr. Jackson to purchase the work at any price not exceeding £25, also Dr. Deering's interleaved catalogue of Plants, £1.

Sum actually paid was £19 10 0 for Deering.

£1 2 0 for Catalogue of Plants.

September 6th, 1824 :

Mr. Oldknow having enquired whether the Committee would let the Medical Society a room for their Library and at what rent.

Resolved : That the room now occupied by the Mineralogical Cases may be let to the Society at the rent

of £10 per annum exclusive of coals, candles, and all other expenses.

Resolved : That the thanks of the Committee be given to Mr. Walker for his alterations in his painting, and that the gilding and painting the frame shall be paid by the Society.

October 4th, 1824 :

The President delivered to the Committee a collection of Botanical Specimens made by the Duke of Newcastle in the Pyrenees, and arranged by Mr. Ramond and presented to the Library by His Grace.

Resolved : That the President be requested to write to the Duke communicating the thanks of the Society for his valuable present.

Mr. John Pearson presented 1st part of a reprint of Thoroton's Nottinghamshire corresponding with some of the papers in Deering's Collection.

Resolved : That the thanks of the Committee be given to Mr. Pearson.

Mr. Jackson is requested to look out for a copy of Throsby's History of Nottinghamshire for the Library.

Resolved : That the original copy of Thoroton's Nottinghamshire be kept in the glass case.

The Librarian having presented to the Committee the 4th volume of Walpole's Works materially injured in the possession of Mr. B.

Resolved : That Mr. B. shall replace the work and take the injured copy.

March 7th, 1825 :

No books ordered from want of funds.

April 5th, 1825.

Mr. Jowett presented the 4th Fasciculus Herbarium Nottinghamiense or dried specimens of plants indigenous in Nottinghamshire.

Mr. Jackson reported that he had procured a copy of Throsby's Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire at the price of £5 0s. 0d.—not to go out of the Library.
April 20th, 1825.

Mr. Watts, Basket Maker, was entered tenant from Ladyday last for the whole of the four cellars under the Library at the yearly rent of £21 to quit at three month's notice ending at any quarter day.

Mr. Dale presented an original engraved plan of Nottingham by John Badder and Thomas Peat. Thanks.
December 5th, 1825.

In consequence of a suggestion by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, it was resolved.

That this Institution take every opportunity of collecting and procuring all the works that have been written on the County of Nottingham and all that have been printed in the County.

January 2nd, 1826.

Byron's Hours of Idleness presented by Mr. Geo. Bacon.

January 2nd, 1826.

Resolved: That the thanks of the Committee be given to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle for his present "*Fasti Hellenici*."

Also to Mr. G. Bacon for his present of the "*Hours of Idleness*," by Lord Byron.

Resolved: That four shares be paid off, two to Mr. Need, and two to Mr. Thomas Jackson.

May 1st, 1826.

Resolved: That the thanks of the Committee be given to the Revd. Dr. Bosworth for his present of the *Saxon Grammar*.

Dr. Bosworth was at one time curate of Ruddington and in later life Prof. of Anglo Saxon in the University of Oxford, and was related by marriage to Mr. William Jarman of the Savings Bank in Low Pavement.

July 3rd, 1826.

It having been mentioned that several persons had recently been permitted to go upon the roof of the Library ; Resolved : that in future, no person whatever to be allowed to do so without the permission of the Committee.

Monday, July 2nd, 1827.

Resolved : That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Revd. Dr. Booker for his handsome present of books and fossils.

It was agreed that in consequence of the damage that the portrait of Dr. Storer is receiving from the dampness of the staircase, it should for the present be removed into the Committee Room.

July 23rd, 1827.

The President stated that Mr. Staveley proposed to carry a staircase to the upper storey in the room between the Committee room and the Standfast Library, and to open a communication underneath the staircase between the Library and the Committee room, the expense of which he estimated at £50.

Resolved : That a staircase be made on the plan suggested by Mr. Staveley and an opening underneath it.

Monday, August 6th, 1827.

Resolved : That the thanks of the Committee be presented to Miss Smith, St. James's Street, for the present of the portrait of the late Sir Richard Arkwright. 3rd September, 1827.

It appearing to this Committee that, if the alterations now in progress be paid for from the annual funds of the Library, no more books could be ordered until the next spring.

Resolved : That £60 shall be borrowed by the Committee to pay for such alterations and that the produce of the upper rooms shall be entirely directed to the repayment of this loan until its liquidation.

Mr. Thomas Wakefield is requested to procure the loan.

Oct. 1st, 1827.

Mr. H. T. Huthwaite entered as purchaser of an original share at £15 15s. 0d.

February 4th, 1828.

Resolved : That the portrait of Dr. Storer shall be varnished by Mr. Wood and replaced on the staircase, and that Mr. Wakefield and Mr. Pearson be requested to superintend it.

June 2nd, 1828.

Mrs. Henry Wells purchased an original share at £15 15s. 0d. It appearing to the Committee that the first ten shares of the additional number voted on 5th April, 1825, have all been sold, and that the advance to be paid for the remaining 15 shares is to be determined by the Committee.

Resolved : That the price of the first 5 shares shall be raised to £16 16s. 0d. besides the full year's subscription for the current year.

Sep. 8th, 1828.

Resolved : That the thanks of the Committee be given to Dr. M. Davidson for his handsome present of Wood's History and Antiquities of the University of Oxford.

Oct. 6th, 1828.

Resolved : That the thanks of the Committee be given to Dr. M. Davidson for his handsome present of the Book of Homilies, and also to Colonel Stretton for his very handsome present of Roman Coins to the Library Museum.

Jan. 2nd, 1832.

It was Resolved : That no person residing in the

Town who is not a Subscriber to the Institution shall be allowed to refer to any, or make use of any part of the property of the Library, and that the Librarian be directed to show this rule to any person so offending.

July 2nd, 1832.

Sir Ronald Ferguson, M.P., having obtained for the Library a copy of the Public Records :—

It was Resolved : That the thanks of the Committee be presented to him for the trouble he has taken on the occasion.

A letter of which the following is a copy was received from Sir Ronald Ferguson.

It was Resolved : That an answer be sent to Mr. Cooper acknowledging the present and receipt of the books.

July 2nd, 1832.

New Boswell Court, Lincoln's Inn,

June 28th, 1832.

Sir.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Commissioners on the Public Records have directed that copies of their publications should be furnished to the Nottingham Subscription Library, but upon con-

dition that the works should be open to the inspection of other respectable legal and literary persons as well as of the Subscribers.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

C. P. COOPER.

Sir R. Ferguson, M.P.

The following is a copy of the answer to Mr. Cooper.

Sir,

I am directed by the Committee of the Nottingham Subscription Library to express that high sense they entertain of the honor conferred upon the Institution by the Donation of the Public Records and to signify the pleasure they feel in receiving them on the terms mentioned in your letter to Sir Ronald Ferguson.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir, Your obedient Servant,

S. NEWHAM,

Honorary Secretary.

Aug. 7th, 1832.

Complaints having been made to the Committee of the repeated firing of guns and pistols in the Garden and Billiard Room connected with the Institution. The Committee hereby express their high disapprobation of

such conduct and express their determination to put an end to it.

March 4th, 1833.

Complaints having been made against several individuals who attend the Billiard Room for very disorderly conduct.

It was Resolved : That the Secretary do write to each of the parties complained against requesting them to desist from such conduct and giving them notice that if they do not, the Committee will take the matter up in a serious manner.

April 1st, 1833.

It was Resolved : That the Secretary do draw up a form of transfer to be used in future by subscribers disposing of their Shares.

FORM.

To the Committee of the Nottingham Subscription
Library.

Gentlemen,

I have this day disposed of my Share in the above Institution to Mr.——— and request you will transfer same to him according to the Rules.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours etc.,

May 6th, 1833.

Mr. Wakefield having expressed a wish to have the sum of £1000 which he had lent on Mortgage on Bromley House repaid to him and Mr. Brewster and Mr. Freeth having both offered to lend the money at 4 per cent. for a term of years.

It was Resolved: That Mr. Freeth be authorised to arrange who was to lend the money with Mr. Brewster and on what terms.

Jan. 6th. 1834.

The thanks of the Committee to Dr. Marshall Hall for his observations on the Reflex Function of the Medulla Oblongata and Medulla Spinalis.

It appearing that a book which had been repeatedly declined by former Committees, was ordered by a subsequent one. The Committee for their own guidance and future regulation have passed the following Bye-Law

That in any case where a book has been declined, such books shall not be afterwards ordered without special notice given to all the Committee.

It appearing that Bullock's "Mexico" which had been taken out by Mr. ——— some time back was in the hands of a mechanic at Leicester, and the book having

been traced from Mr. — to Mr. — the Saddlers, whose servant it appears gave it to this mechanic.

It was resolved: That the Secretary do apply to Mr. — for an explanation of the circumstances and to furnish a fresh copy to the Institution.

March 31st, 1834.

The thanks of the Committee were voted to Mr. D. S. Churchill for the skin of an African Elephant.

Sep. 1st, 1834.

Resolved: That the Secretary write to Mr. H. informing him that unless his arrears of Subscription be paid up before the next Committee Meeting, his share will be sold forthwith pursuant to the notice already given and requiring him to replace Bissett's Reign of George 3rd, pursuant to the 31st Rule.

Resolved: That the Meridian Line in the Standfast Library lately verified by Mr. Bell and Mr. Jackson be laid down in brass at the expense of the Institution.

March 2nd, 1835.

It was resolved that Mr. H. be allowed two months from this date to supply the 1st Vol. of Bissett's George 3rd.

It was Resolved: That the Librarian be instructed to make every enquiry possible into the recent case of

the 1st vol. of "Helen" being grossly defaced and that a strong notice be put up in the Library condemnatory of that shameful practice.

March 2nd, 1835.

It was Resolved : That the Secretary write to Mr. Geo. Bacon informing him of his liability to fines for having lent books to his father.

It is Resolved : That Mr. S. H. S. be fined 5/- for having lent 2 vols. of Almack's to Mr. H. of Buxton.

It was Resolved : That Mr. Geo. Bacon be fined 2/6 for having lent books to his father.

It was Resolved : That a notice be put up in the Library expressive of the determination of the Committee to enforce the payment of the fines.

Feb. 5th, 1844.

It was Resolved : That the members of the Committee be specially summoned at the March meeting to decide upon the best course to be pursued prior to the General Meeting as to the very low price the shares of the Institution are now selling for.

April 2nd, 1844.

It was proposed by Mr. Braithwaite and seconded by Mr. Wells : That the Committee have power to

purchase shares at a price not higher than £7 and to sell them again at a price not less than £10. Carried.

(This was at the General Meeting and carried out a resolution made by the Committee at the Meeting of March 4th, 1844.)

Oct. 7th, 1844.

Thanks voted to Mr. Hawksley for his present of the Report of the Committee on the health of Towns, also to Mr. Vickers, the Mayor, for the same work, which was returned to him as not required, and to the anonymous donor of "The Herberts" and "Midsummer Eve."

Nov. 4th. 1844.

Mr. Rhodes' estimate for covering the stairs and landings with lead at the price of £49 5s. 0d. is accepted, and the work ordered to be done immediately.

Jan. 6th, 1845.

It was Resolved: That Mr. Brooks be applied to who has recently broken out two windows looking into the Library passage, for the acknowledgment of 10/- a year for each window.

It was Resolved: That Messrs. Marriott, Munk & Co., have permission to break out another window in their Counting House at the rate of 10/- for each window

as an acknowledgment, and that both their arrangements be settled by an agreement in writing, and that iron bars be placed before each window under the direction of the Library Surveyor.

Aug. 4th, 1845.

It was Resolved : That notice be given to Mr. R. that the individual lodging at his house can no longer be permitted to attend the Institution.

It was Resolved : That an offer be made to Dr. Pigot of £12 12s. 0d. for Dugdale's Warwickshire, 2 vols. Sept. 1st, 1845.

Messrs. R. Enfield and Mr. W. Tomlin attended as a deputation from the Natural History Society requesting permission to remove their specimens without payment of their rent.

Sept. 8th, 1845.

It was Resolved : That the Members of the Natural History Society be allowed to remove their specimens on the immediate payment of £15 in two months, and it is also Resolved : That a recommendation be made in the Report to the General Meeting that the second year's arrear of rent be remitted. But in case the majority of members at the General Meeting disapprove of such

second year's rent being remitted, the Collection of the Natural History Society shall be held liable for the same.
Sept. 22nd 1845.

Mr. Dearden having offered a folio copy of Lodge's Portraits for £20 0s. 0d.

It was Resolved : That the four vols. be purchased subject to a guarantee of the work being perfect and that there never was a fourth volume published of the same size as the preceding ones with plates of the same size.
Nov. 2nd, 1846.

In consequence of the gross mutilating of a work called "The American in England." It was Resolved : That a notice be written, and a copy forwarded to each Subscriber, stating, It was the intention of the Committee to bring forward at the Annual Meeting a Law comprising a penalty of a most severe nature on the first individual who defaced another work, and that the Librarian be directed to examine carefully each book on its being returned to the Library.

It was Resolved : That there be an additional Insurance of £2,000 effected in the Nottingham & Derby Office.

November 7th, 1853.

Mr. Hawkes was accepted as tenant to the vaults

lately occupied by Mr. Harrison, at a rent of £19 19s. 0d. subject to the payment of the rent quarterly, a quarters notice to quit at the end of any quarter, that the tenant be not allowed on quitting to receive anything as for the good will of the business carried on.

In the account of the next meeting this note occurs :

Mr. Hawkes having applied for an alteration in the terms of his rental and occupancy, it was resolved : That the rental be quarterly as agreed at the last meeting, and with respect to any future receipt of Goodwill money, the clause passed then be rescinded.

Aug. 6th, 1855.

Resolved : That the underground premises be no longer let as Wine Vaults, and that Mr. Hawke's notice be carried out but that the President and Honorary Secretary be authorised to grant an extension of time to suit the convenience of Mr. Hawkes, not longer than 12 months.

April 1st, 1856.

The Report being read, the following amendment was moved by Mr. R. Enfield and seconded by Mr. Tomlin. That in as much as the primary object of this Institution

is to provide a Library as its finances will allow rather than to increase its real Property, and inasmuch as the rents of the premises let off are more than sufficient to pay the interest on the existing Mortgage, it is not expedient in future that any deduction should be made from the funds applicable to literary purposes, and this meeting is therefore of opinion that it is not desirable to convert the existing mortgage debt into a debenture debt as suggested by the Committee.

The amendment was lost by a show of hands, 8 being held up for it, and 12 against.

June 2nd, 1856.

Mr. Watson gave notice that at the next meeting he would bring forward Mr. Hawke's tenancy to reconsider its continuance.

July 7th, 1856.

Resolved : That Mr. Hawke's notice be withdrawn on his guaranteeing not to sell any liquors to be drunk on the premises, and also agreeing to leave on a six month's notice terminating either in March or September.

Oct. 15th, 1863.

The late Mr. Hart's share is transferred by his executors to Miss Sarah Eliza Coldham.

February 5th, 1866.

Resolved: That the Mayor be allowed to send the painting by Kneller to the Kensington Gallery for exhibition.

March 5th, 1866.

Resolved: That the painting by Kneller be sent to London to Mr. Holden to be cleaned under his inspection

August 7th, 1866.

Resolved: That during the Session of the British Association in Nottingham, the Members be admitted to the Library on production of their tickets.

This minute and the two letters which follow show that the hospitality of the Library has been extended to the members of various Associations that have visited Nottingham provided that their meetings have been connected with objects germane to uses of the Library.

March 2nd, 1868.

Resolved: That the large portrait by Sir G. Kneller be forthwith entrusted to Messrs. Christie & Manson for sale by auction with a reserved bid of £100.

The following letters refer to the visit of the Church Congress to Nottingham in 1871.

Church Congress,
Offices, 4, Week-day Cross,
 Nottingham, Oct. 4th, 1871.

Dear Sir,

The Reception Committee of the Church Congress desire me to acknowledge the receipt of your communication on behalf of the Bromley House Library, and to tender their best thanks for the courtesy offered to the members of the Congress, which they beg very gratefully to accept.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

W. VICKERS, Jr.

Honorary Secretary Fin. & Recpn. Comm.

The Revd. Henry Bell, M.A.,

Honorary Secretary to the Bromley House Library.

Church Congress, Nottingham,

1871.

15th January, 1872.

To The Secretary,

Bromley House Library.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to forward you two copies of the Church Congress Report as a memento of the kind

courtesy shewn by your Society to the Members of Congress.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

THOMAS J. PONSONBY.

Acting Secretary.

Nov. 3rd, 1875 :

Six plane trees planted in Bromley House garden by the President, Edmund Percy and the Librarian, J. C. Banwell.

Note.—Only three of these trees are now standing, but are of large size.

Oct. 2nd, 1876 :

Mr. Frederick Brewster and Mr. Edward Henry Fraser, having paid the Librarian £25 each, an original share was issued to each on condition of the further payment of £1 1s. 0d. being the proportion of the Subscription for half year unexpired.

Nov. 6th, 1876 :

Original share issued to Mr. C. E. Fellows and Mr. C. W. Stringer upon same terms as above.

Proposed by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mr. Leavers.

That until further notice, not more than five original shares be sold and that the minimum price be £35.

Dec. 4th, 1876 :

A vote of condolence with the family of the late J. Watson was passed.

Mr. Watson was a member of the Committee.

Nine new shares had been issued during the year ending April, 1877.

May 7th, 1877 :

Mr. R. Enfield proposed and Mr. Percy seconded.

That ten new shares be issued at £50 each. Adopted.

Dec. 3rd, 1877 :

Agreed that a sum of not exceeding £100 be spent in the purchase of old Standard Works at the discretion of the Sub-Committee and the Hon. Secretary.

Mar. 4th, 1878 :

Resolved : That the coloured lithographs illustrating Roberts's Holy Land be lent to the Corporation for exhibition at the Castle Museum for six months on condition that the Corporation insure them in the sum of £100. This at the request of the Mayor of Nottm. and Mr. T. R. Starey who appeared as a deputation to make the request.

Apl. 2nd, 1878 :

Portrait of Kirke White lent to the Castle Museum for exhibition.

June 3rd :

Proposed by Rev. W. Woods, seconded by Rev. R. Armstrong :

That the Library be opened as usual on 3rd July, on the occasion of the Visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales at 10 a.m. That the Hall door be closed at 10.30 a.m. and that no books be issued during the day.

That the President and Secretary confer with the Committee of the inhabitants of the district of Chapel Bar with the object of co-operating with them in the decoration of the Library and the street.

Aug. 8th, 1879 :

Resolved : That a new Catalogue be printed.

Dec. 6th, 1880.

Resolved : That the thanks of the President and Committee be given to his Grace the Duke of Devonshire K.G., for his valuable present of a Catalogue of the Books in the Library at Chatsworth.

Apl. 5th, 1881 :

Resolved : That the price of the new Catalogue to new subscribers be 12/6.

May 2nd, 1881 :

A memorial presented by the Subscribers in favour of closing the Spirit Vaults in the basement of the building was discussed and on the proposal of Mr. Percy, seconded by Mr. Manning, it was Resolved : That the Vaults be closed for sale by retail at the earliest possible date at which a legal notice can expire, also by wholesale, and that the Vaults shall not be let again for the same business.

July 3rd, 1882 :

A report as to the possibility of utilizing the land in rear of Library in order to increase the income having been read, it was Resolved on the motion of Rev. W. R. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. J. H. Brown : That the following gentlemen be a Sub-Committee to obtain further information, and to confer with Mr. R. Evans upon the subject, with power to expend £10 in preparing plans should they deem such outlay necessary.

Sub-Committee : The President, Hon. Sec., Rev. J. F. McCallan, J. Bradley, and J. T. Brewster.

Nov. 6th, 1882 :

A new share was issued to Mr. Oswald for £50, the subscription to be considered paid to Apl. 1st, 1883.

Mr. Evans attended the Committee and explained Plan No. 1 for alteration to existing building. On the motion of the Rev. W. R. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Starey, it was agreed that the plan be adopted and the alteration carried out forthwith. Resolved: That the President, Hon. Sec., and Mr. Starey be a Sub-Committee to carry out the alteration.

(This relates to the Reading Room at back of the Library.)

Plan No. 2 for new building was discussed and on the motion of Mr. Starey, seconded by Rev. W. R. Stevenson it was Resolved: That the above-named Sub-Committee be requested to take the necessary steps to lay the subject before a Special Meeting of the Shareholders.

Feb. 4th 1883.

In reply to an application from Mr. Pearson, the Committee unanimously refused to sell any of the garden in the rear of the Library.

Apl. 3rd, 1883:

The President explained the alterations the Committee have carried out during the year and called the attention of the Proprietors to the plan of the Committee for utilizing the ground at the back of Bromley House,

and requested the opinion of the Proprietors on the subject.

It was proposed by Mr. Percy and seconded by Mr. T. C. Hine that it is deemed inexpedient at present to erect any buildings on the ground at the rear of Bromley House.

After a discussion on the question, it was deemed inexpedient to carry it further at present.

June 4th, 1883 :

A vote of condolence with the family of the late Rev. J. F. McCallan was passed. The Rev. gentleman was an ardent worker on the Committee.

Mar. 3rd, 1884 :

Moved by Mr. Percy, seconded by Rev. W. Woods : That in order to reduce the debt, 10 shares be sold at £40 each, and if this could not be done then the money to be raised by debentures.

Apl. 1st, 1884 :

A discussion on the proposed increase of ten shares was raised by Mr. J. Bradley. The President (Mr. J. W. Leavers) in answer stated the Committee considered by that means the liabilities incurred in the carrying out the improvements, would be most easily met. Mr. J. H. Brownsword objected to an increase in the number of shares. Mr. H. Clark thought it would be better to

deal with the debt by debentures, and Mr. Starey that the price of shares sold (if any) be not less than £50.

The Rev. W. Woods and the Hon. Sec. advocated the proposition of the Committee.

The Report was agreed to and the payment of the liabilities incurred, whether by the sale of shares or in any other way be left to the discretion of the Committee.
May 5th, 1884 :

Resolved : That sale of shares be advertised and if possible to sell nine at £40 each in order to pay off the balance due to the Bank. If more than nine shares are applied for, the applications to stand over until the next meeting.

June 3rd, 1884 :

Proposed by Mr. R. Hutchinson, seconded by Dr. Truman : That Mr. M. Browne's offer to lend the Committee £400 at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., repayable in instalments of not less than £20 each be accepted. Carried.

Aug. 5th, 1884 :

Resolved : That Mr. Browne be requested to take such steps as he may think desirable to enforce Right of Way now obstructed by Mr. Pearson.

Dec. 1st, 1884 :

Mr. M. Browne reported that he had had an interview

with the Assessment Committee and that the said Committee were unanimously of opinion that we are liable to rates.

Mr. Browne stated that he was about to appeal to Quarter Sessions.

Feb. 2nd, 1885 :

Mr. M. Browne reported the loss of the appeal on Rating, and after some discussion, it was Resolved : That the decision of the Recorder should not be contested. That a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider the question of rating, and the steps necessary to put the Library in a position to be exempted and report.

Sub-Committee to be Dr. Cox, Messrs. Thorpe, Bradley, Browne and Hon. Sec.

May 4th, 1885 :

The Committee having been informed that a number of gentlemen were willing to render every possible aid to the Library in obtaining information re Rating, the following gentlemen were requested to act as a Committee for that purpose :—

Messrs. Fraser, Brewster, Rev. W. H. Stevenson, P. Woodward and W. R. Thorpe.

June, 1885 :

The Secretary reported that all matters relating to dispute of Right of Way with Mr. Pearson were settled. It was Resolved : That the £15 Mr. Pearson had agreed to pay as damages should be returned to him.

Sep. 11th, 1885 :

Resolved : That Messrs. Brewster, Fraser, Dr. White and the Secretary be a Sub-Committee to deal with question of transfer and sale of License.

Oct. 6th, 1885 :

Mr. Brewster reported the decision of the magistrates refusing to transfer the License.

Jan. 5th, 1886 :

The following Report of the Sub-Committee who kindly volunteered to obtain information and report upon the rating question was read :—

1. That the Rules of the Library having been amended since the registration thereof should be re-registered before the Library will be in a position to appeal.
2. That on a careful consideration of the authorities (none of which are of recent date) it appeared that the Library will be entitled to exemption from rating if

all Newspapers, Railway Guides, Directories, and publications of a like character be discontinued.

It was resolved unanimously that no further action be taken at present.

Mar. 2nd, 1886 :

Resolved : That fines be again enforced on new books kept over the time allowed.

June 7th, 1887 :

Resolved : That the balance of the loan with interest be repaid to Mr. M. Browne, and that thanks of the Committee be accorded to him for the kind and liberal arrangement he made in advancing the money.

June 6th, 1893 :

The Committee granted the privileges of the Library to the Members of the British Association during the period of their meetings in Nottingham.

Jan. 2nd, 1894 :

Resolved : That a Supplementary Catalogue be printed at a cost of not more than £20.

May 23rd, 1894 :

Alterations to Rules 7, 8, 23, re Committee, agreed to on the proposition of Mr. J. Bradley, seconded by Mr. S. H. Sands.

Dec. 4th, 1894 :

The Librarian reported that he had, with the permission of the President and Hon. Sec., applied to the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office for a donation to this Library of Record Publications, and had in answer to such application received 162 volumes of "The Chronicles and Memorials of Great Britain and Ireland." The Library is indebted to the Rt. Hon. Arnold Morley, M.P., for his appeal to the Treasury in support of the application.

Apl. 2nd, 1895 :

Unanimously Resolved : That the thanks of the Subscribers be given to the Rt. Hon. Arnold Morley for the trouble he has taken with regard to the books presented to the Library by the Lords Commissioners of H.M. Treasury.

June 18th, 1895 :

Portrait of Mr. Samuel Newham purchased from Mr. S. Redgate for the sum of twelve guineas.

May 5th, 1896.

On the proposition of Mr. J. M. Perry, seconded by Mr. J. H. Brown, it was resolved that the thanks of the Committee be given to Mr. John Manning for services rendered during his years of office.

June 2nd, 1896.

Resolved : That a special Meeting of the Committee be summoned to consider the propriety of disposing of the land in front of Bromley House.

Nov. 3rd, 1896.

Resolved : That Mr. E. H. Fraser, Mr. P. Woodward and Mr. J. Russell be appointed a Committee to report upon the question of the possibility of Bromley House Library being exempt from local rates, etc.

Jan. 5th, 1897.

The Rating Committee reported : That owing to the recent decision in the House of Lords in the case of the Overseers of the Savoy and the Art Union of London having overruled all previous decisions as to the meaning of " Voluntary Contributions " mentioned in the Act of Parliament under which the library might have been exempted from local rates ; they recommend that no further action be taken in the matter. This was agreed to, and a vote of thanks to the Sub-Committee was proposed and carried.

June 13th, 1899.

Resolved : That the Rules of the Library be revised.

Jan. 6th, 1900.

The Rev. J. A. Mitchell proposed and Mr. W. W. Lewis seconded that the new Rules of the Library be printed at a cost of £10 12s. 6d. Carried.

The Committee accorded to Mr. Parker Woodward and Mr. E. H. Fraser a vote of thanks for the care and attention they had shown in preparing the revised rules.

April 10th, 1900.

A book entitled "History of the Siege of Gibraltar" was presented to the Library by the sons of the late John Manning, Esq., in memory of their father. A vote of thanks was accorded by the Committee.

May 11th, 1900.

Resolved: That the Electric Light be installed in the Library.

March, 1902.

Unanimously resolved: That the Committee much regret that Mr. Hubbart is unable to continue his services as Honorary Secretary, thank him for his manifold and indefatigable services, and hope that in some way he may render service to the Library still.

June 10th, 1902.

Resolved: That a Sub-Committee be appointed to

report upon the income derived from offices, etc., with a view to alteration of the front of the Library premises to shops or otherwise.

Oct. 14th, 1902.

In accordance with the expressed wishes of the late Philip James Bailey, his executors offered a Collection of books from his Library to be known as "The Philip James Bailey Collection," together with an enlarged portrait in carbon of the Author of "Festus."

The Committee accepted the gift with thanks.

Oct. 30th,

At a meeting of the Improvement Committee, it was resolved: That the present Income of the Library is quite inadequate, and that with a view to the improvement of the rental, plans and approximate estimates be obtained for one or two shops on the ground floor, the existing staircase to be preserved, and for additional cost of having the Library floor fireproofed.

Dec. 9th, 1902.

Resolved: That the question of alteration of premises be mentioned in the Report before the Annual Meeting, and referred to the whole body of Subscribers for them to decide whether any alterations should be made or not.

At the Annual Meeting in April, 1902, it was decided to circularise the Members re Alterations.

July 4th, 1902.

Proposed by Mr. Bradshaw, seconded by Mr. J. Page, and carried: That as a large majority of the Subscribers who sent in answers to the circular letter had expressed their approval of the proposal to alter the premises, the scheme to be proceeded with, on condition that the Trustees give their assent.

As the Trustees were not unanimous in their opinion upon this question, they were unable to give their assent to any proposal to alter the Library premises; and although the matter has been discussed from time to time, no real action has been taken.

EPILOGUE.

Here ends this short and imperfect history of the beginnings of an ancient Library. What the future will be, whether this Library will hold its own for long against the many libraries springing up around, time alone will tell. But it is hoped that this record, however imperfect, will serve to keep alive the memory of an institution which has done much for the life of Nottingham and deserved well of its inhabitants.

A day may perhaps come when the public spirit of the shareholders may induce them to realize the building and its grounds, and out of the proceeds of the sale, say £25,000 or £30,000, pay themselves out at £30 each; build another library retaining some of the features of the old library for the reception of the books, pictures, etc., capitalize the remaining money for the upkeep of the building, the provision of a caretaker, and the purchase from time to time of such interesting old books as Gwillim's Heraldry; then hand on the library to the City to be a "memorial to perpetual generations" like the Chetham Library at Manchester. These be wild dreams perhaps, my masters! Let them be so, they shall stand.

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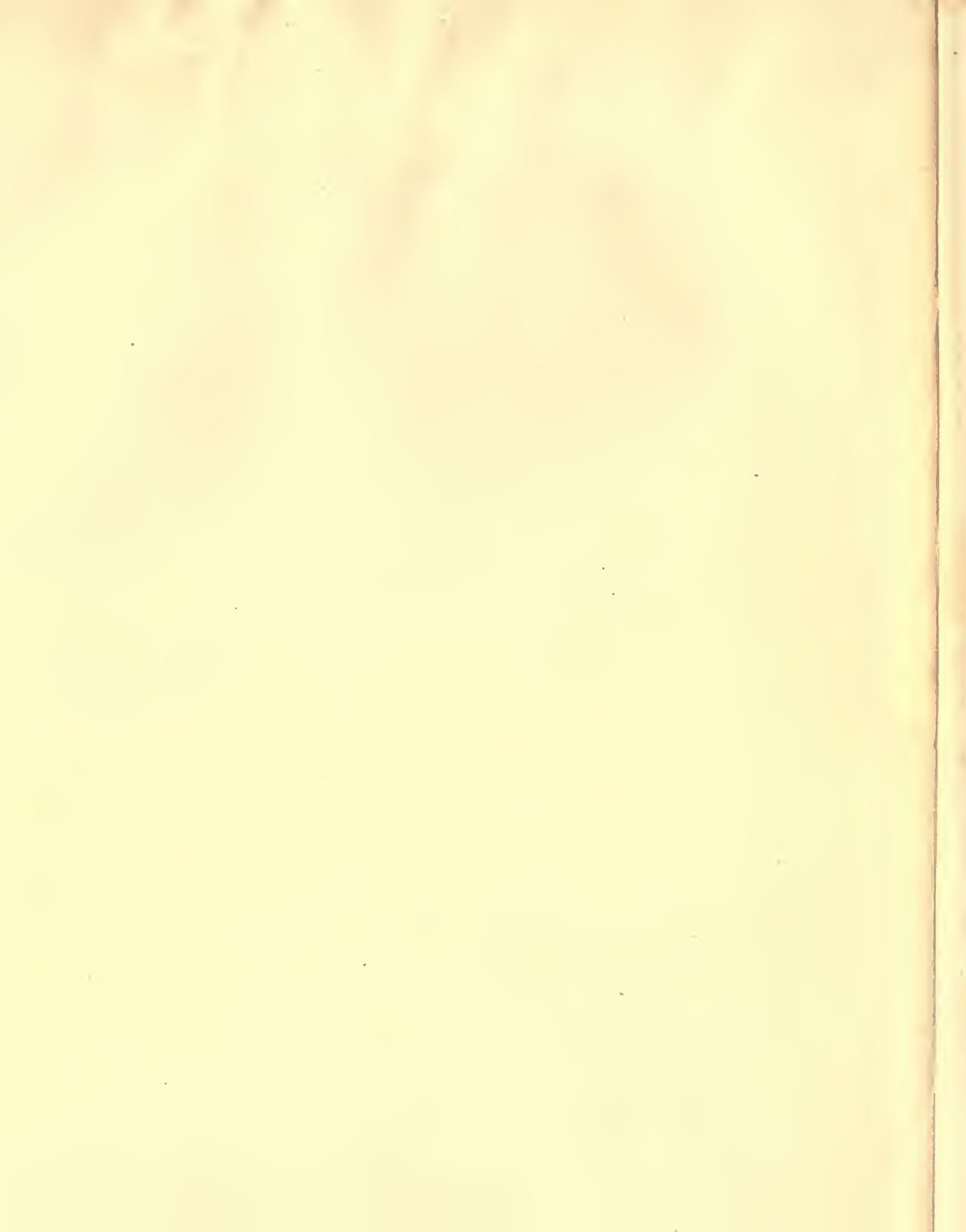
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